

DOUAI ABBEY RETREATS RECOMMENCE

September - December 2021

After 18 months we are now reopening our guesthouse & offering these retreats to restart our pastoral outreach programme. Following the Covid lockdowns and isolation from friends, family & the workplace many are seeking restoration. We invite you to come and draw fresh strength from our monastery setting. We offer these residential retreats, some available online with participation by Zoom - the link will be sent on request (a small donation would be welcome).

Friday 24 September

until 16 October

**Inauguration of display in Douai Abbey Church of the Retreat Association Icon:
*Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well***

Weekend 24-26 September

St Thérèse of Lisieux Retreat - led by Dr Denise Clare Oliver

-The Saint who did ordinary things extraordinarily well -

The way of St Thérèse is accessible to everyone who wants to grow in their love of God. St Thérèse had very few extraordinary experiences, one of the things which make her little way so accessible & attractive - a way of love which all can follow, it is the key to understanding the universal call to holiness, available to all the baptized who can reach the heights of holiness by responding to God's grace in ordinary daily tasks. This retreat will focus on St Thérèse's little way, her prayer and her deep penetration of the Scriptures, showing how we can imitate her.

(Dr Denise Clare Oliver has taught spiritual theology in Rome and at the School of the Annunciation; she writes and lectures in spirituality in the UK, USA, Rome & Ireland)

Weekend Cost: £160 - £128 per person for those sharing. Also on Zoom

Midweek 5-8 October

Lectio Divina Retreat – led by Gervase Holdaway OSB

Experience the ancient art of praying with Scripture. Once practiced by all Christians, it is the slow, contemplative prayer which enables us to listen to God speaking through his Word and respond prayerfully. The retreat will allow time for solitude, reflection & sharing.

(Fr Gervase is oblate master, formerly parish priest and director of this pastoral programme.)

Start Tuesday evening & ending with Friday breakfast – not online.

Cost: £200 - £160 per person for those sharing (Not available to non-residents)

Weekend 8-10 October

“A Lustre to this Day” – led by Barbara Priest

Eternal source of light divine,

With double warmth thy beams display,

And with distinguished glory shine

To add lustre to this day. (Ambrose Philips)

We can find God everywhere, in the ordinary places, things & people around us, if we only pay attention. Through poetry, prose & music this gentle retreat offers guidance in noticing blessings in the extraordinary ordinary, all of which add a lustre to the day. There will be an opportunity on Saturday afternoon to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Abbey and practice paying attention, so do please bring a camera or sketchbook to capture what you see if you wish.

(Barbara Priest is an Anglican lay minister in Salisbury diocese, and an oblate of Douai Abbey. She specialises in contemplative ministry and loves helping people recognize God in the everyday through poetry, music, art and photography.)

Weekend Cost: £160 (All rooms fully en suite) £128 per person for those sharing. Also on Zoom.

Saturday 16 October Day of Reflection on the Retreat Association Icon

- Jesus & the Samaritan Woman at the Well -

Abbot Christopher Jamison OSB & Alison MacTier (Director of the Retreat Association)

Cost: £25 (incl. lunch)

Weekend 5-7 November

'Draw Living Water'

led by Euan Tait

A retreat based on journeying, calling, exile, coming home to Christ, drawing on Thomas Merton's Well of Siloam. Musically, centred on Beethoven's Fidelio & other works of his - perhaps the Eroica or the Violin Concerto, even in parallel with one of his two great Mass settings.

(Euan Tait is an international librettist & experienced retreat leader who works in many UK communities, eg. Ammerdown, Minsteracres & Belmont. For many years a member of L'Arche at Bognor Regis, he now teaches at a college in western England. see <http://euantait.com>)

Weekend Cost: £160 £128 per person for those sharing. Also on Zoom

Midweek 30 Nov – 2 December

Advent Retreat

led by Kieran Monahan OSB

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of preparation but for what or whom are we waiting for? This retreat invites us to walk with Christ during this beautiful season of Advent, as we prepare not just for his birth at Christmas but for his coming among us in the here and now, in our everyday lives and through the lives of those we encounter. In the busyness of the build up to Christmas let us take time to ponder and wonder.

Fr Kevin is a monk of Ampleforth Abbey with much experience in giving retreats.

Weekend Cost: £160 (All rooms fully en suite) £128 per person for those sharing

BOOKING FORM attached or see our website: www.douaiabbey.org.uk .

We ask that retreats are booked no later than 2 weeks before each event so that we can maintain availability of rooms for other guests. Bookings are usually closed 2 weeks prior to an event.

Please send to guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES

- Please arrive at reception 4pm – 5.30pm on the first day of the retreat, and depart after lunch on the last day; except at the midday Lectio Divina retreat which finishes after breakfast.
- If you are likely to arrive later than the indicated time, or are delayed, please inform us: Fr Peter (see below) or Fr Oliver (tel 0118 971 5399 / guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk)
- The first session or conference is usually after Compline on the first evening ie. at about 8.30pm.
- Please park cars on the car park rather than in front of reception or elsewhere in the grounds.

TRAVEL

Douai Abbey is a mile north of the A4 at Woolhampton, halfway between Reading & Newbury.

- **By road:** to Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ
- **By train:** alight at Midgham, served from London, Paddington, Reading & Newbury.
- **By Bus** The local bus is No 1 (Reading – Newbury) alight at Woolhampton (The Angel Pub).
- **By National Express:** buses now arrive off Junction 11 of the M4; there take a bus to Reading station for a train or bus onwards.

There is an affordable **taxi service** to bring guests up the hill from Woolhampton or Midgham Station (1½ miles), but it is best to phone and book in advance.

Jennie's Taxis: 0796 77 66 970

Kennet & Avon Taxis: 01635 847853

DOUAI ABBEY PASTORAL PROGRAMME: Fr Peter Bowe (director)

W: www.douaiabbey.org.uk E: pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk T: 0118 971 5333