

## NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – 10TH AUGUST 2025

**Reading I: Wisdom 18:6-9**

**Psalm: 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22**

**Reading II: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19**

**Gospel: Luke 12:32-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have the servants recline at table, and proceed to wait on them."

**Luke 12:35-37**

Vigilance, hard work, determination, attentiveness, fidelity—these are some of the qualities that Jesus is speaking about. To "gird your loins" means that you are immediately prepared for some challenging task. You are ready for the hard work ahead and are committed to it. To "light your lamps" implies that you are not in the dark but that your mind is enlightened in such a way that you are able to see that which is the will of God.

As we go through life, it is easy to become complacent in the things of faith. It is easy to become lazy, disinterested, distracted, and unfocused. This parable goes on to speak of a thief who tries to break into a house in the middle of the night. This is Jesus' way of saying that the evil one, with his lies and attacks, is constant, vicious, forceful, and unpredictable. For that reason, we must never grow tired of being vigilant in the spiritual life and must always be attentive to the light of God's voice.

How attentive are you to the mission of Christ on a daily basis? This is an essential question to answer honestly. Most people will find that they become distracted from the mission God has given to them. We experience countless things every day that compete for our attention. Many of those competing voices might not appear to be sinful. For example, perhaps a certain hobby has become the dominant focus of your free

time. Or perhaps responsibilities at work have spilled over into your family time. Or perhaps some painful or even enjoyable experience has had your full attention for some time. Though it is obvious that sinful distractions in life are evil, it might not always be as obvious that there are many other neutral distractions that are a real problem. The problems they can produce are a lack of attentiveness to the will of God and a lack of readiness to engage the will of God the moment He calls.

Imagine, for example, that a very important person calls you to ask for a favor. Most likely you would drop all you were doing and respond immediately. But, sadly, when the King of the Universe attempts to speak to us and inspire us to some mission, we can be too distracted to even listen, let alone respond with immediacy and zeal. This is a problem. If, however, a person is continually attentive to the voice of God and responds to His interior promptings as soon as they are received, then Jesus says that this person is truly blessed and that He will "have the servants recline at table, and proceed to wait on them." In other words, the result of being vigilant in our attentiveness to the inspirations of God is that God Himself will reward us with His service. He will invite us to the table of spiritual rest, peace, joy, and fulfillment. He will serve us His mercy, which will be more than we could ever imagine.

Reflect, today, upon the call from God to always be attentive to His voice the instant He speaks. Reflect upon how aware you are of His constant presence in your life and His ongoing communication. Know that if you can form a habit of always listening, then you will never miss out on the grace-filled mission given to you by our Lord. Always listen to Him, seek out His still and gentle voice, and be ready to respond to Him every time He calls.

**My ever-speaking Lord, You have so much to say and so much to reveal. Please enlighten my mind and strengthen my resolve to always listen to you and respond with all my heart. Your will is perfect and will lead me to a life of the deepest joy and fulfillment. May I believe this with all my heart and act accordingly. Jesus, I trust in You.**



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – 10TH AUGUST 2025

### North Downs Pastoral Area

**Diocese of Portsmouth**

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

email: [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Telephone: 01367 358895

Website: [www.blessedhugh.org.uk](http://www.blessedhugh.org.uk) Acts 9:26-31

1 Coxwell Road, Faringdon, SN7 7EB

Parish email:

### Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland



### Ministries

**Bible Studies** - Dr. Neill Taylor & Paul Padley & Team  
**Family & Youth Catechesis (Confirmation)** - Mrs. Helena & Emmanuel Boakye & Team  
**Children's Catechesis (Children's Liturgy & FHC)** - Mrs. Kathleen Thomas & Team  
**Evangelization Catechesis (Adult Evening Studies)** - Dr JP Crilly & Team  
**Administrator & Maintenance** - Andrew Chell  
**Office Secretary** - Nerisa Gomez  
**Finance** - Lorraine Brabin,  
**PPC & Youth & Children** - Kathleen Thomas,  
**Safeguarding** - Ann O'Reilly

### PRAYING THE READINGS AT HOME

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9**

*You made us glorious by calling us to you*

**Psalm: 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22**

**R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19**

*Abraham looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God*

**Gospel: Luke 12:32-48**

*You too must stand ready*

### Silent Mass – August 2025

Sunday Mass is at 10am.

You can follow Fr. Claro's daily international Masses from his home on Facebook Live here:

<https://facebook.com/claro.conde>

His current schedule (subject to change) is:  
7 am Regular Daily Masses Monday to Sunday.  
6 pm Masses on Wednesdays and Sundays.  
On the first Wednesday of each month:  
6 pm Mass in the church (Our Mother of Perpetual Help).

### Bible Study

We have a Bible Study, reflecting on the coming Sunday Mass Readings, with Fr Claro on Zoom on Mondays from 8 – 9 pm. To join please use the link on the Parish website home page.

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TIME 10TH AUGUST 2025**

**DATES**

**NOTE:** I will be away from 22nd July to 26th August for Retreat and Levamen & Holidays. I am grateful to Fr. Andrew Burnham for standing in for me in my priestly duties.

Please contact the parish Administrator Andrew Chell if you have concerns about the parish.  
[andrew.chell@niab.com](mailto:andrew.chell@niab.com)

You can contact me directly too at Fr. Claro Conde [cconde8254@aol.com](mailto:cconde8254@aol.com) This email is better than my diocesan email for international messages.

**PARISH FINANCE BUDGET** can be found in our parish website, thanks to the Finance Team, Andrew Chell, Lorraine Barbin and Neill Taylor.

Let us thank Msgr Andrew Burnham for celebrating Masses in the parish on my absence. Some of you may have already been acquainted with him during the Thursdays evening lectures organised by Dr JP Crilly and PPC. He was a Church of England bishop who converted to Roman Catholicism under the Ordinariate established by Pope Benedict. He became parish priest of St Mary East Hendred a neighbouring parish. He retired a couple of years ago and now enjoys helping other parishes nearby.

**Saint of the Week**



**St Maximilian Kolbe (1894 - 1941)**  
**Feast day: 14th August**

He was born on 8 January 1894 in occupied Poland: he joined the Franciscans in Lwów in 1910, and was ordained eight years later, as his country became free and independent for the first time in over 120 years.

He believed that the world was passing through a time of intense spiritual crisis, and that Christians must fight for the world's salvation with all the means of modern communication. He founded a newspaper, and a sodality called the Knights of Mary Immaculate, which spread widely both in Poland and abroad.

In 1927 he founded a community, a "**city of Mary**," at Teresin: centred round the Franciscan friary, it attracted many lay people, and became self-supporting, publishing many periodicals and running its own radio station.

In 1930 he went to Japan, studied Buddhism and Shintoism, and through the Japanese edition of his newspaper spread the Christian message in a way that was in harmony with Japanese culture. In Nagasaki, he set up a "Garden of the Immaculate," which survived the atomic bomb.

He also travelled to Malabar and to Moscow, but was recalled to Poland in 1936 for reasons of health.

When the Germans invaded in 1939, the community at Teresin sheltered thousands of refugees, most of them Jews.

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In 1941 he was arrested and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, where he helped and succoured the inmates. In August of that year a prisoner escaped, and in reprisal the authorities were choosing ten people to die by starvation. One of the men had a family, and Maximilian Kolbe offered to take his place. The offer was accepted, and he spent his last days comforting his fellow prisoners.

The man he saved was present at his canonization.

**Friends of the Holy Land**  
**The Christians of the Holy Land need your help!**

The population of Christians in the Holy Land, some of whom still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus, is dwindling. Many, especially in places such as Bethlehem, depend for their livelihoods on pilgrims, and have obviously been heavily impacted by the war. Those who are farmers in the West Bank are losing land to heavily armed Jewish settlers, who recently attacked by arson the Church of St George (which dates to the 5th Century) and the village of Taibeh, the only fully Christian Palestinian village. In Gaza several of the churches have been bombed by the Israeli military, including the Catholic Church of the Holy Family (whose priest Pope Francis used to telephone weekly). They also come under suspicion and sometimes attack from their Muslim neighbours too, especially in Syria.

Friends of the Holy Land is an ecumenical charity which provides practical and spiritual support to Christians in the birthplace of Christianity. You can learn more about their work here:  
<https://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/about-us> , and can support them through prayer and by donating here:  
<https://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/donate> .

**CTIF – Lunch in The Garden**

Churches together in Faringdon invite you to **LUNCH IN THE GARDEN**  
Sunday 10th August 12.30 for 1.00 at 19, Coxwell Road, SN77EB  
Please bring ready to eat food to share  
Disabled parking tel: 01367-240929  
No dogs please except assistant dogs.  
Your opportunity to get to know people in all the churches in Faringdon!  
More details from Karen  
[karen@vogt.org.uk](mailto:karen@vogt.org.uk) 01367-241707

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARINGDON**

*Invite you to*

**LUNCH  
IN THE  
GARDEN**

**on SUNDAY 10th AUGUST  
12.30 for 1pm  
at 19 Coxwell Road Faringdon, SN77EB**

Please bring ready-to-eat food to share.  
Off street parking limited to disabled only  
No dogs please, except assistant dogs.

*Your opportunity to get to know people in all the churches in Faringdon, not just the one you are familiar with!*

Emg 01367 240929