

READINGS

Reading I: **Isaiah 55:10-11**

Psalm: **65:10, 11, 12-13, 14**

Reading II: **Romans 8:18-23**

Gospel: **Matthew 13:1-23**

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up..."

Matthew 13:3-4

In today's Gospel, the Parable of the Sower is delivered from a boat, as Jesus addresses a large crowd along the shoreline. Jesus uses the natural acoustics of the water to carry His voice to the eager multitude who came to hear Him. Their earnestness offers us an opportunity for self-examination:

Am I among that crowd, attentively listening as God speaks to me today?

Do I go out of my way to seek, listen, and respond to the Word of God?

A parable is a method that both reveals and conceals. It reveals divine truth to those who are humble and receptive and conceals that same truth from those whose hearts are closed. The truths of the Kingdom are not concepts that can be quickly grasped. They are divine mysteries that must enter the soul and be pondered and nourished. Only the spiritually docile can penetrate their depths and allow God's Word to transform their lives.

The Sower is Christ. The seed is the Word of God, and the soil represents the human heart, in all its various conditions of readiness and receptivity. Some souls await God's Word like freshly tilled, moist, and fertilized soil. As soon as the seed enters, it begins to grow rapidly - until fully grown and producing good fruit.

Other souls are less receptive. Like the path, some hearts are hardened, stubborn, refusing to receive divine truth. The Word is heard but not truly received. The enemy snatches it away before it can penetrate.

Hearts that are like rocky ground are those who initially receive the Word with joy but lack

perseverance. When trials come, they fall away. They may attend Mass, read Scripture, or begin with fervour, but without deep interior conversion rooted in prayer, they cannot endure the heat of testing.

The thorny heart is the divided heart, where the Word of God is mixed with anxieties, riches, and pleasures. The Gospel is heard - perhaps even cherished - but it is suffocated by worldly attachments, ambition, or fear. Earthly anxieties and the fascination of riches are thorns that smother the soul and prevent it from growing.

The good news is that God, the Divine Sower, is not passive. He sows the seed Himself - personally, directly, and abundantly. He is not like a remote monarch seated on a distant throne, waiting for us to come to Him. No - God always takes the initiative. He goes forth like the sower, casting His seed upon us even before we ask.

The seed comes to us in two essential ways: truth and grace. As truth, God's Word enlightens the intellect to know His eternal mysteries. As grace, God's Word strengthens the will to embrace and live those truths with faith and charity.

Reflect today on God's generous and continuous sowing in your soul. He never ceases speaking to you, calling to you, and planting His Word within you.

How receptive are you?

Which soil best describes your soul?

It's never too late to respond in this life. God's Word can grow rapidly within us when our souls are fertile and receptive. Remove the rocks, cut down the thorns, and till the hardened path, so that the abundant seed will make its way into your heart.

Divine Sower, You ceaselessly send forth Your truth and grace to enlighten and strengthen us in the mission of building Your Kingdom.
Please till the soil of my heart and make it fertile, so that Your Word may take root in me, growing and producing an abundance of good fruit.
Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 12th JULY 2026

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

email: cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Telephone: 01367 358895

Website: www.blessedhugh.org.uk

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 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 -

safeguarding.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Mass Setting: Mass of Christ the Saviour (Dan Schutte)

Children: 762 - All of my Heart

Entrance: 121 All people that on earth do dwell

Psalm: 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

The seed that falls on the good ground, will bear abundant fruit, will bear abundant fruit.

Offertory: 639 Take my hands

Communion: 670 The Seed is Christ's

Recessional: 759 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

Sunday Mass is at 10am.

The Mass is usually also streamed on Facebook here:

<https://facebook.com/blessedhughfaringdonchurch/>

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

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

His current schedule (subject to change) is: 6.30 am Regular Daily Masses Monday to Sunday.

Bible Study

We have a Bible Study, reflecting on the coming Sunday Mass Readings, with Fr Claro on Zoom on Mondays from 7.00pm. To join please use the link on the Parish website home page.

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12th JULY 2026

YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lki2AM1FHl>



12th July- meeting of the Blessed Hugh Faringdon "encyclical club" - after Mass.

Today's Gospel is taken from the third of the five major discourses of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, a collection of parables. Today we listen to the Parable of the Sower Going Out to Sow, although a title such as the Parable of the Four Types of Ground better reflects the focus of the parable. Again and again throughout Matthew's Gospel, the decisive question is not: "Have I heard the word?" The crowds heard the word. The question is: What has become of the word within me? Has it been snatched away?

Has it withered? Has it been choked? Or has it borne fruit?

FOLLY FEAST 11-12 July, Sunday Service at 1030am



Churches Together in Faringdon

Folly Fest Service 2026
Finding the Kingdom of God

PLEASE NOTE that the **Sunday Mass on 12 July** will start early at **9:30am** then we join the Sunday Service of the Folly Feast at the Market Square

Sea Sunday will be on 12 July this year. Please encourage prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris (formerly, the Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. This mandatory second collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world.



TRAINING HOW TO USE THE SUNDAY MISSAL

contact Dr. David Williamson of the Choir

PPC & Finance Meetings, see in the parish website

MONDAY BIBLE ZOOM time 7pm

YOUTH MEETING every other Friday, contact Helena Boakye 07455 993296

Clergy Moves

We pray for our priests on their new assignments

I wish to announce some new appointments, mostly effective 8th September 2026, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Herewith, I express much gratitude to these priests for all their work for the Lord in their current appointments, and for agreeing to take on these new assignments. Feel free, when appropriate, to make these announcements to your people. Whilst the appointments take effect on 8th September, please negotiate the precise changeover dates with both incoming and outgoing priests. There are a few more announcements to come and these will be in a subsequent Ad Clerum. A summary list will eventually go into Enews. In alphabetical order:

- Deacon Craig Aburn to serve as deacon in St. Patrick's Hayling Island (under Fr. Andrew Wagstaff).
- Fr. David Bateman from St. Joseph and St. Edmund Southampton to Jersey as Assistant Priest
- Fr. Ambrose Chou from Jersey to English Martyrs Reading as Assistant Priest
- Fr. Marcin Drabik from St. Bernard's and St. Michael's Waterside with Our Lady of the Assumption Lyndhurst to Our Lady and the Saints of Guernsey as parish priest and Coordinating Pastor/Dean.
- Fr. Nishan Edward from St. Thomas of Canterbury Newport IoW with St. Saviour's Totland Bay IoW to St. Mary's and St. Columba's Gosport as Priest in Charge (under Canon John Cooke)
- Fr. Oliver Ezeani (Archdiocese of Onitsha) to St. Colman and St. Paul Portsmouth as Priest in Charge (under Fr. Andrew Wagstaff)
- Fr. Michael Fava from St. Joseph's Newbury to St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs as parish priest and Coordinating Pastor (from 1st November)
- Fr. Inna Gade from Our Lady and the Saints of Guernsey to Our Lady Queen of Peace Southbourne as Priest in Charge (under Mgr. John Nelson)

- Canon Mark Hogan from St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs to Our Lady and St. Edmund's Abingdon as parish priest and Coordinating Pastor (from 1st November)
- Fr. Matthew King from St. Mary's and St. Columba's Gosport to Our Lady of the Assumption Thatcham as Priest in Charge
- Fr. Innaiah Maddineni from St. Patrick's Hayling Island to St. Patrick's Woolston with The Annunciation Netley as Priest in Charge
- Fr. Jamie McGrath from Our Lady and St. Edmund's Abingdon to St. Joseph's Newbury as parish priest (from 1st November)
- Fr. Paul Nwune from Holy Ghost Basingstoke to St. Thomas of Canterbury Newport IoW with St. Saviour's Totland Bay IoW as Priest in Charge
- Fr. Jack Ryan (newly ordained) to St. Joseph and St. Edmund Southampton as Assistant Priest and UoS Chaplain
- Fr. Benjamin Theobald from Holy Family Millbrook and UoS Chaplaincy to Corpus Christi Wokingham as parish priest
- Canon Simon Thomson from Corpus Christi Wokingham to Our Lady and St. Joseph's Lymington with St. Anne's Brockenhurst and St. Francis of Assisi Milford on Sea as parish priest and Coordinating Pastor
- Fr. Andrew Wagstaff from St. Colman and St. Paul Portsmouth to Sacred Heart and St. Peter's Waterlooville with St. Michael's Leigh Park, St. Edmund's Horndean and St. Patrick's Hayling Island as parish priest and Coordinating Pastor

Farewells and Retirements

There will be other opportunities for this too, but I wish herewith to express immense gratitude to the following priests who are either retiring this autumn or leaving the diocese. Our thanks to them for their loyal and generous service, and for their inspiring example of priesthood. Please include them in a Bidding Prayer and keep them in your own prayers.

- Fr. David Adams (from Our Lady and St. Joseph's Lymington with St. Anne's Brockenhurst and St. Francis of Assisi Milford on Sea)
- Fr. Alexander McAllister SDS and Fr. Mario Lainez SDS (from Our Lady Queen of Peace, Southbourne)
- Fr. Kevin O'Brien (from Our Lady of the Assumption Thatcham)
- Fr. Mark Whiting (previously announced) from St. Patrick's Hayling Island

Sabbatical

We pray for the following who will be on sabbatical this September:

Fr. Ross Bullock
Deacon Diego Hoyos

Further Studies

Fr. James Lewis will be away this coming year in Steubenville undertaking further studies. We wish him well and offer for him our prayers

Priestly Ordination

Please pray for Deacon Jack Ryan who will be ordained as priest of the Diocese at the Cathedral on Saturday 18th July 2026 at 11am. Please attend if you can and RSVP to cathedralevents@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Bring white diocesan vestments and upon arrival come to the Bishop's Office door to vest in the Aula.

Bishop Philip Egan
Portsmouth Diocese

Encyclical Club!

You have heard of a book club, well, we bring you the Blessed Hugh Faringdon encyclical club! We will read our way through notable encyclicals and meet after Mass to discuss them.

With the recent publication of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas" there has been great public attention, clerical and lay, Catholic and non-Catholic, on this encyclical.

The roots of it naturally lie in the Gospel, Scripture and millennia of Catholic thought and teaching, but one clear inspiration is the encyclical "Rerum Novarum" of the last Pope Leo, Leo XIII.

On Sunday 28th June, we will meet in the hall after Mass to discuss after coffee the first part of Rerum Novarum, paragraphs 1-11. You can access the encyclical here: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html