

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 12TH OCTOBER 2025

Reading I: 2 Kings 5:14-17

Psalms: 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

Reading II: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he travelled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "**Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!**" **Luke 17:11-13**

This story begins very well for all ten of these lepers. For nine of them, it ends tragically. For one, it ends in an even better and more glorious way than it began.

The lepers represent us all. Their illness was a symbol of all sin and the consequences of sin. When the disease began, the lepers began to experience the effects of their disease. Discoloured and thick dry skin, sores, and rashes would set in. Once detected, each leper was removed from the community to stop the spread of the disease and was only free to associate with other lepers. They no longer could gather freely with their loved ones as the lepers entered isolation and shame. Analogously, all sin has similar effects. Sin causes pain within our souls as we discover the growing wounds it causes. Sin affects our relationships and our ability to freely relate to those whom we love.

The initial cure for sin is simple. We cry out, "**Jesus, Master! Have pity on me!**" But that is only the first step. By curing the lepers, Jesus was showing us that He had power over our sin. He could forgive us and will forgive us when we seek His mercy. But forgiveness will end in tragedy if it does not lead us to faith and to a following of the will of God with zeal and determination. If we take the forgiveness of sins for granted, then we will be in an even more miserable state than before. The nine lepers who failed to return and give thanks to God represent those who do not convert their lives when touched by God's merciful hand.

This story highlights the importance of our response to God when He does touch us. We must glorify God with a loud voice, fall on our knees before Him and express our deepest gratitude. When the one leper does this, Jesus says to him, "**Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.**" That mercy from our Lord was a mercy that touched his soul. It imparted the gift of faith and enabled this man to go forth and be healed with eternal graces.

Too often we turn to God in prayer only when we have a problem. Then, once the problem is taken care of, we pay little to no attention to our Lord. God's role in our lives is not to fix our problems so that we can then go about our daily lives as normal. His mercy must evoke ongoing and profound gratitude. Gratitude to God is nothing other than an acknowledgement of the truth. We owe everything to God. Without Him, we are nothing. We are dead in our sins. Just one leper realised this and was blessed with the gift of faith that saved not only his body, but also his soul.

Reflect, today, upon the ways in which you turn to God in prayer. It is good to come to Him with your needs and problems. It is good to cry out "**Jesus, Master! Have pity on me!**" It is good to come to Him as the Physician of your soul and the source of healing you need. But that is not enough. In fact, if you stop there in your life of prayer, you will end in a most miserable state. You will be using God for your selfish advantage. Reflect upon whether you are able to take the next and most important step in faith. **Do you come to Him when all is well? Do you praise Him with all your might for all that He has done for you? Do you fall on your knees before Him with the deepest gratitude in your heart?** Reflect upon your prayer and seek to imitate this one leper. If you do, your faith will also save you and our Lord will invite you to rise and go forth, healed in the truest way possible.

Most merciful Lord, You are able to do all things. You are able to heal all my wounds, forgive my sins and solve every problem I encounter. As I cry out to You in my need, please do heal me. In response, may I always turn back to You with the deepest gratitude and praise so that my faith in You will grow and my love for You will truly flourish. Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 12TH OCTOBER 2025

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 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

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

Psalms: 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Mass Setting: Creation Mass by Marty Haugen

Children: 804 - Isn't it good (first part)

Entrance: 113 All glory, laud and honour

Psalms: 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

All the ends, the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God

Offertory: 538 One bread, one body
Communion: 558 O the word of my Lord
Recessional: 198 Christ's is the world

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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HOLY ROSARY MONTH of OCTOBER

Pope Leo XIV is inviting all the faithful to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God's gift of peace. In this way, Catholics across the globe will unite to pray the Rosary for peace in war-torn lands, especially during the month of October, which the Church dedicates to the Holy Rosary. He announced that he himself will join the faithful in Rome in St. Peter's Square on 11th October, at 6 pm. "I invite everyone, each day of the month, to pray the Rosary for peace — personally, in the family, and in community," he said. The Pope also invited Vatican employees to pray the Rosary daily in St. Peter's Basilica at 7 pm throughout October. The Rosary for Peace will be held during the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, which takes place on 11th/12th October.

19 October World Mission Sunday 2025

Pray with the Global Church. World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) can be found in our parish website.

EVENTS

Cremation Service for Anne Janet Brown "Jinnie" RIP on 24 October 12pm at South Oxfordshire Crematorium notice from son Joseph Brown.

Warm Space Friday Lunch 11am on 24 Oct, 7, 21 Nov, 12 Dec, here at Blessed Hugh Parish Hall

Formation Day for Readers

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation along with the Liturgy Project team invites you to a formation day for Readers at St Bede's, Basingstoke on Saturday 18th October. A Formation morning for Readers will take place on Saturday 18th October and all readers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. This day will include a session

on Lectio Divina. Anyone wishing to attend either day should register via

liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem on the first phase of Gaza peace agreement.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem issued a press release on Thursday, 9 October, in response to the news that Israel and Hamas have agreed to the first phase of a peace plan with a view to ending the war in Gaza. "The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem welcomes with joy the announcement of an agreement that envisages a cessation of the attacks in the Gaza Strip and the immediate release of the hostages, as well as that of Palestinian prisoners. The Patriarchate ardently hopes that this accord will be fully and faithfully implemented, so that it may mark the beginning of the end of this terrible war." Read more: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/patriarch-on-phase-one-of-gaza-peace-plan/>

Dilexi te – Pope Leo XIV's first papal document.

Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi te* (I have loved you), sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, in caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality and more. Read more at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/dilexi-te-pope-leo-xivs-first-papal-document/>

Bishop Moth welcomes *Dilexi te*. Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the Department for Social Justice of the Bishops' Conference has welcomed Pope Leo's first Apostolic Exhortation and encouraged its application across England and Wales. Read more <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishop-richard-moth-welcomes-dilexi-te/>



Saint of the Week
St Teresa of Ávila (1515 - 1582)
Feast day: 15th October

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She was born in Ávila in Spain and entered the Carmelite convent there at the age of 20, not because of any great attraction to the religious life but because it seemed the most sensible thing to do. At this time Carmelite convents were comfortable places. One was well looked after, had as much contact with the outside world as one wanted, and could keep one's own possessions. With time, and despite ill-health, she made great progress in contemplative prayer and had a number of mystical experiences, which she treated with great suspicion since she felt that she was not nearly holy enough to be accorded them by God.

Teresa's prayer life led her to seek a more perfect life, and in 1562, in the face of much opposition, she founded a convent of Discalced Carmelite nuns in Ávila. "Discalced" ("shoeless") signified their devotion to poverty. The rest of her life is a story of the establishment of more and more Discalced Carmelite convents in the face of intense opposition from the unreformed Carmelites but help coming from the highest levels at the same time. Thus in 1566 the General of the Carmelite Order approved Teresa's original foundation and permitted her to make new ones. In 1575 the chapter of the Order decided to dissolve them all, and for the next five years every effort was made to destroy Teresa's reforms and many of her followers (including St John of the Cross) were imprisoned and cruelly treated.

At length, in 1580, and with the support of King Philip II, the Discalced Carmelites were made independent and St Teresa was able to found more new convents. She died, worn out by her efforts, on 15 October 1582.

St Teresa is an outstanding example of how the contemplative life can well up and overflow into action. In addition to all this, she wrote much on the subject of contemplative prayer and her writings are still standard works today. She was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

A favourite story about St Teresa illustrates the intimate relationship that the saints have with God. When she was on one of her innumerable journeys across Spain, her horse threw her as she was crossing a river. Soaked to the skin she looked up to heaven and said, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" We should bring everything to God in our prayers, even our reproaches. For a reproach, in the end, is simply our way of offering up to God our incomprehension of what he is giving us.

GOOD NEWS!

Mass attendance in the pastoral area has shown double digit growth and there are now more people at Mass on Sunday in our area than prior to the pandemic. Deo Gratias!

5th October- shared lunch after Mass

Thank you to everyone who came to the shared lunch, and especial thanks to those who contributed food, or helped set up or tidy up afterwards. Same again at the Feast of Christ the King!

Next evening talk- Philip Pullman: Accidental Evangelist?

Our next evening talk is on Thursday 6th November, starting at 7.45 p.m.

Philip Pullman is an accomplished and prolific author, best known for the "His Dark Materials" fantasy trilogy, that has been adapted for stage, film and television. He is almost equally famous as a critic of religion and especially Christianity.

But- are his books effective as criticism of God and Christianity, or do they, contrary to the author's intentions, offer a spur to young readers to take moral and metaphysical matters seriously? Does the Golden Compass point to God? Come along to find out!

Our speaker is Fr Matthew Topham, the parish priest of East Hendred.

Share your favourite saint with us!

Who is your favourite saint? Why are they special to you? Please share with us!

We will be putting up a display in the parish hall of your favourite saints, so please let us know who they are and why. Either write it down and give it to a member of the PPC or email to pbfh.bucklandandfaringdon@gmail.com.

Formation corner!

Do you wish to know more about the Catechism of the Catholic Church, but are short on time? Why not check out the podcast "Crash Course Catholicism". Hosted by a cheery Aussie lady, each episode is about 30 minutes long and is a great introduction to "Catholic teaching and why it makes sense". You can find it on many podcast platforms, including Spotify: [Crash Course Catholicism | Podcast on Spotify](#) and on Radio Maria England on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9.30