

READINGS

Reading I: Sirach 27:30—28:7

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Reading II: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

"That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt."

Matthew 18:23-25

Jesus tells this parable in response to Peter, who asked, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Peter likely thought he was being generous. But Jesus invited him to go far beyond what he imagined, responding, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

The context is helpful. Not long before this dialogue, Jesus had changed Simon's name to Peter – Petros – meaning "rock," the foundation upon which He would build His Church. He further promised Peter that the gates of hell would not prevail against it and said, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19).

Soon after that, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where they were privileged to witness His Transfiguration – a glimpse of His divine glory. Peter had also witnessed many other miracles, some quite personal. For example, when asked by tax collectors whether Jesus paid the Temple tax, Jesus told Peter to go to the sea, cast a hook, and open the mouth of the first fish he caught. Inside, he found a coin worth twice the Temple tax – enough for both Jesus and Peter (Matthew 17:27).

Perhaps these recent events in which Peter played a privileged role left him feeling quite favoured. He may have begun to think well of himself, sensing a special place in Jesus' mission. Wanting to demonstrate his spiritual maturity, Peter made what he thought was a generous offer: to forgive his brother up to seven times.

In Jewish tradition, to forgive seven times was seen as more than sufficient. The rabbinic teaching often suggested forgiving up to three times, based loosely on interpretations of the Prophet Amos (cf. Amos 1:3). So when Peter offered seven, he was doubling that and adding one for good measure – a symbolic act of exceeding piety.

But Jesus' response radically shifted the paradigm. Seventy-seven times – or, in some manuscripts, seventy times seven – is not a precise numerical limit. It's a symbolic expression that conveys the idea of limitless forgiveness, echoing God's own mercy toward sinners. Jesus was not simply raising the bar; He was inviting Peter – and all of us – into the boundless love of the Father.

The parable Jesus then taught illustrates this clearly: Because God has shown us immeasurable mercy, we must extend mercy to others. But it also begins with a shocking image. When the king began the accounting and the servant who owed a "huge amount" was brought before him – an amount so large he had no way of repaying – the master ordered that the servant, his wife, his children, and all his property be sold. This illustrates the incalculable debt we owe to God for our sins. Not only are we incapable of repaying it, but even everything we hold dear cannot cover the cost. At the heart of the parable is this truth: Unless we extend limitless mercy to others, we will be held accountable for our own unpayable debt before God. But if we imitate God's mercy and forgive from the heart, that enormous debt will be entirely wiped away.

Reflect today on the mercy you have received from God.

Has He not been patient with you, gentle with your faults, and generous with His grace?

Now consider someone in your life whom you have found difficult to forgive.

Does that person's offense compare to the debt God has forgiven you?

Let this parable challenge you to a deeper conversion of heart, one that forgives as it has been forgiven, not seven times, but seventy-seven times, and more. Only then will the kingdom of Heaven truly reign in you.

Most generous Lord, You forgive more than seventy-seven times – more than seventy times seven. Your mercy is unconditional in its origin and limitless in its reach, yet it bears one condition: that I, too, show mercy to others. Grant me, dear Lord, a heart that is merciful like Yours, one that participates in and reflects Your Divine Mercy. May I forgive as I have been forgiven, so that the full debt of my sin may be wiped away and that others may be drawn to You through the witness of mercy in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday September 13th 2026

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

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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 Pope Paul VI

Children: 804 Isn't it good

Entrance: 862 Make me a channel of your peace

Psalm: 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

*Merciful and tender,
faithful is the Lord*

**Offertory: 699 Upon thy table Lord
Communion: 863 Calm me Lord as you calmed the storm**

Recessional: 286 God forgave my sin

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.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday September 13th 2026

YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJmyB639Hzc>



Matthew's Gospel is carefully structured around five great discourses, each presenting a different aspect of life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's Gospel comes from the fourth discourse, often referred to as the Community Discourse. Jesus is preparing his disciples for life as the community that will continue his mission after his passion, death and resurrection. Chapter 18 is therefore Matthew's great discourse on life within the Church. It explores the practical realities of living together as disciples of Jesus. Today's Gospel focuses on one of the most demanding aspects of that common life: the call to forgive.

We welcome Fr. Andrew Burnham who will preside this Sunday Mass

14th September Monday 8.30pm Finance Meeting via Zoom

16th September Wednesday 12noon Buckland Kitchen at Memorial Hall.

25th September Friday 12noon Open Lunch at Blessed Hugh Faringdon.

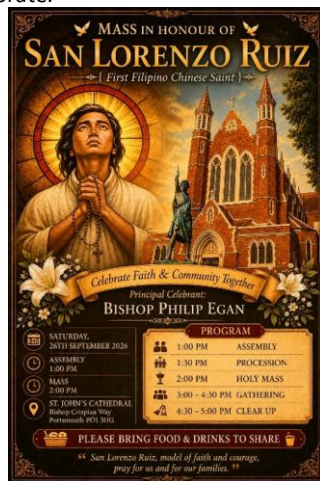
TRAINING HOW TO USE THE SUNDAY MISSAL and how to be a good Reader at 930 Sunday, contact Dr. David Williamson

PPC & Finance Meetings, see in the parish website

MONDAY BIBLE ZOOM time 7pm

YOUTH MEETING every other Friday, contact Helena Boakye 07455 993296

Home Mission Sunday (from Bishops' Conference). Sunday 20th September is Home Mission Sunday. Celebrating the Holy Father's first encyclical, the theme for this year is "Magnifica Humanitas" as the heart of mission. More details about this can be found on the Bishops' Conference website - Home Mission Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference. The Second Collection this weekend is to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate.



5-Day Pilgrimage to Fatima 2026 Including Lisbon and St Anthony's Church



1st - 5th Oct. '26 only £839-pp 4 nights / 5 days
Departing London Gatwick twin room sharing Half-board breakfast & evening dinner included

Led by Fr Claro Conde
For information tel. 01793 881166 or 07703059009

PRICE INCLUDES
Return flight from London Gatwick (economy); check-in; luggage 15kg + hand carry; 4 nights in Fatima 3* hotel or of similar standard; half-board (breakfast & evening dinner); Executive coach for touring; entrance fees as per itinerary; UK airport taxes; Myrm booklets; ATOL protection contribution.

NOT INCLUDED
Single room supp. £38; travel ins. (compulsory); lunches; tip and gratuities of £12 will be added to your invoice automatically for our guide, driver and hotel staff.

HOW TO BOOK
Book online: www.allstaintstravel.co.uk/FM2026
Deposit: £250 to secure your place.
Final balance: To be paid 2 months prior to travel.
Deadline of booking at this price: 31st Feb. '26

All Saints Travel Ltd.
Tel. 01793 881166 / 07703059009
www.allstaintstravel.co.uk

Car parking

A reminder that on Sundays, please leave the church car park for Fr Claro, and for elderly and infirm parishioners, to minimise the distance they have to walk. If you are able to walk from the Southampton Street car park, please park there (it is free on Sunday) and leave the limited spaces in the church car park for those who need them.

Dates for your diary

- 14th October- **RCIA course begins** (7.30 p.m. in the church hall)
- 23rd October- evening talk in the hall (7.45 p.m.) **"The Cross and The Caman: The entangled history of hurling, shinty and the church"**
- 20th November- evening talk in the hall (7.45 p.m.) **"The Annunciation in Art"**

Dear Fr Claro,

Just to let you know that Heather died on the 20th (August) and the Requiem will be on the 27th. Things happen quickly here.

She was in hospital for a few days in June with a UTI but came home and recovered ok. She took no medication other than the dementia pill. Her organs were all healthy. As the death certificate states, she simply died from Exhaustion. She took to her bed about the 13th then just got weaker. She retained her personality and knew us all to the end.

We were all with her at her death, which was beautiful and pain free. She just sighed and fell asleep. Alison and the older granddaughter washed her body and then dressed her in a shroud made by her grandmother.

Thank you, Father, for welcoming her into your parish, which she loved.
In Christ,
Michael

Diocesan Catechist Day – Portsmouth Diocese Saturday 10 October | 9:30am–1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke

Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish?

Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to **form missionary disciples**. Inspired by Jesus' words,

"Go therefore and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19),

we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend. To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh>

Children's liturgy

A reminder that once your child has done their First Holy Communion, they are encouraged to stay in the church and participate in the whole of the Mass. We understand that some children who have done their First Holy Communion are still keen to attend the Children's Liturgy. However, no child in secondary school (that is over the age of 11) will be permitted to attend Children's Liturgy. This prevents the catechists from having to cope with a very large spread in ages and encourages the older children to participate in the Liturgy of the Word.

We encourage children that have done their First Holy Communion to consider becoming altar servers.