READINGS

Reading I: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm: 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one - to each according to his ability. Then he went away."
Matthew 25:14-15

Today's parable comes from Jesus' eschatological discourse (Matthew 24–25), delivered near the end of His public ministry. It speaks of the Final Judgment and calls us to vigilance, fidelity, and spiritual fruitfulness as we await the return of our Divine Master. This eschatological reminder of God's Final Judgment is especially fitting as we near the end of the Liturgical Year, in anticipation of the Solemnity of Christ the King next weekend.

The story begins with a master who, before departing on a journey, entrusts his possessions to his servants, "each according to his ability." In this image, Jesus reveals Himself as the Master, whose journey begins with His Ascension into Heaven. The talents - a unit of currency - represent the spiritual gifts, graces, charisms, and opportunities God entrusts to each soul for the building up of His Kingdom.

This raises a profound question: Why are these gifts given in differing measures? Why does one soul receive five talents, another two, and another only one? Is God unjust in the distribution of His mercy? The answer lies in the mystery that, although every soul has the capacity to receive the infinite God who dwells within, not all cooperate with His grace to the same degree.

Saint Teresa of Ávila reflects beautifully on this truth in the opening pages of her spiritual masterpiece, The Interior Castle. She teaches that the soul is like a magnificent castle, in which God dwells in the innermost chamber. The spiritual life is a journey through the many "mansions" of this castle, drawing ever closer to union with the One who already resides within. Saint Teresa affirms that the soul is of "great beauty" and "great capacity" because God is present within us (I.I #2). God has already placed within each soul every spiritual treasure - every grace and gift we need. Yet our experience of those treasures - whether five talents, two, or one - depends upon our willingness to embark on the inner journey of prayer, purification, and transformation.

So, is God unjust in the distribution of His mercy? Certainly not. Each of us is capable of receiving and manifesting that mercy in abundance. The extent to which this takes place is revealed in today's parable, along with the sobering truth that such gifts can be lost through negligence and complacency.

The servants entrusted with five and two talents represent those who actively cooperate with the grace of God dwelling within. That cooperation leads to spiritual transformation and growth, doubling the gifts received and preparing the soul for even greater fruitfulness.

By contrast, the servant who buried the one talent he received represents those who, despite having the infinite God within, remain closed to His grace. To bury the talent is to ignore the divine gifts by hiding them through fear, laziness, or indifference. The result is severe: "Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich… And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth" (Matthew 25:28–30).

Reflect today on the stark contrasts among these servants, and humbly consider which best represents you. God wants you to be spiritually rich. He desires that you use the interior treasure of grace flowing from His indwelling presence. He wants to multiply every spiritual gift you have and use them for His glory and the salvation of souls.
Are you willing to work diligently to cooperate with all that God has given you?
Do you desire spiritual riches in super abundance? Or are you lazy, ignoring God's invitations?
Resolve to grow rich in grace - so that when Jesus returns in glory, it will be a day of great rejoicing, not one of darkness, wailing, and grinding of teeth.

Most generous Lord, You desire to bestow upon us Your graces in superabundance.
I pray that I will always be open to Your generosity and will cooperate fully with Your graced presence in my life.
May my cooperation be diligent, so that the capacity of my soul may increase and manifest Your glory in exponential ways.
Jesus, I trust in You.

Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - November 15th 2026

North Downs Pastoral Area

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Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon &



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: until Advent: Mass in honour of Pope Paul IX – with Irish Alleluia (36) – Then change to JANCO.

Children: 804 Isn't it good

Entrance: 726: Whatsoever you do

Psalm: 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

How happy are you who fear the Lord!

Offertory: 530: O Lord, your tenderness

Communion: 681 This is my body

Recessional: 447: Lord Jesus Christ

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.

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - November 15th 2026

YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study
https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=nVLSUNIS6KI



This homily explores the Parable of the Talents and asks what it means to live faithfully while we await the Lord's return. Jesus' servants are entrusted with something immensely valuable, not simply to preserve it, but to make it bear fruit. The homily reflects on the difference between Tradition and traditionalism, and on the challenge facing the Church in a rapidly changing world: how do we faithfully hand on the Gospel we have received without simply burying it in the ground? The Gospel has been entrusted to us not merely to preserve, but to proclaim: "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations."

NOVEMBER

Today is the Feast of Blessed Hugh Faringdon. Blessed Hugh Faringdon (born Hugh Cook, c. 1490 – died 14 November 1539) was an English Benedictine monk who served as the last Abbot of Reading Abbey. He was executed for high treason during the Dissolution of the Monasteries and later beatified by the Catholic Church as a martyr by Pope Leo XIII on 1895.



Blessed Hugh of Faringdon depicted at a stained glass window at Belmont Abbey

On the weekend of 14th/15th November, we will hold our first Second Collection for the Priests' Retirement Fund. This is an opportunity to support the priests who have faithfully served our parishes and communities throughout their lives.

21st November Feast of the Presentation of Mary, 3pm Mass at St George Buckland SN7 8QR
22nd November Solemnity of Christ the King and World Youth Sunday, 10am Mass then Shared Lunch.

PPC & Finance Meetings, see in the parish website. Please read the minutes. If you have ideas or issues to present, please inform me or any member of the PPC.

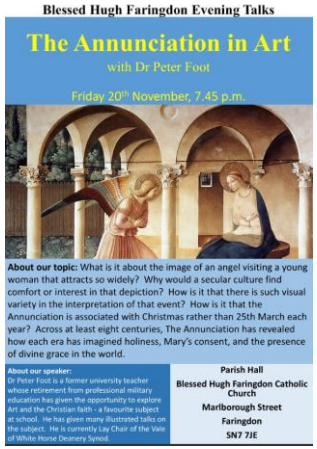
STATUE OF OUR LADY of FATIMA would like to visit home. We bring her to your home where you pray the Holy Rosary. She can stay for a week or so, then we get her back to another family. Any family interest to host the statue pls contact Fr. Claro.

DECEMBER

24ht December Thursday 6pm VIGIL MASS (Blessed Hugh Faringdon RC Church at Faringdon SN7 7JE)
25th December Friday Christmas Day,
9am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS (Blessed Hugh Faringdon RC Church Marlborough St, Faringdon SN7 7JE)
11am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS St George (corner St. George & Buckland Road, Buckland, SN7 8QW)

MONDAY BIBLE ZOOM time 7pm
YOUTH MEETING every other Friday, contact Helena Boakye 07455 993296
CATHOLIC FAITH studies with Dr Peter Starr 730pm at Blessed Hugh.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E-NEWS
https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue554





Encyclical Club -discussing "Dilexit Nos"

Dilexit Nos was Pope Francis' last encyclical, and dealt with divine love and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will be meeting after Mass on Sunday 15th November to start discussing this encyclical. You can access the encyclical here:
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html

Dates for your Diary

- 15th November- Encyclical Club- Dilexit Nos. After Mass in the hall.
- 15th November- filming of Mass
- 20th November- evening talk in the hall (7.45 p.m.) "The Annunciation in Art"
- 22nd November- Feast of Christ the King. Shared lunch after Mass.
- 5th December- CAFOD charity cake sale in the hall. 10.30-13.30
- 11th December- ACN charity quiz in the hall. 7.45 p.m.

Shared lunch after Mass - 22nd November Feast of Christ the King

The 22nd November is the Feast of Christ the King and, as is traditional in this parish, we are having a shared lunch after Mass in the hall.
Please bring along food to share, and please feel free to invite along friends and family, especially those who attend other churches.
As always, we need some volunteers to help set up the hall before Mass and to help tidy up afterwards. Please let JP Crilly know if you can help in either capacity.

Filming of Mass and coffee after Mass- 15th November

There will be a new pastoral area website, and on this website there will be videos providing a snapshot of each parish, including what Mass looks like at each particular church.
To this end Mass on 15th November will be filmed, as will the refreshments in the hall afterwards. If you would rather not be caught on camera, please avoid sitting in the front few rows, and please let the videoing team know before the start of Mass. Conversely, if you DON'T MIND being filmed, PLEASE DO sit in the front few rows, so the church looks as full as it usually is!

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.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

There are changes in the requirements of DBS checks. Please contact Ann O'Reily to check if your VOLUNTARY ministry needs DBS checks and Safeguarding Training. EMAIL Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon - Safeguarding
safeguarding.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org

5th December- Charity cake sale in aid of CAFOD

On 5th December we will have our usual Advent charity cake sale in aid of CAFOD. It will be in the church hall between 10.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Volunteers required to set up (from 10.00 a.m.) and man the stall and clear up afterwards. Donations of homemade cakes, biscuits, pies, bread and preserves as usual very much required.
If you can help in either capacity, please let JP Crilly know.

HELEN PAKEMAN - SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

The Service celebrating the life of Helen Pakeman will take place on Saturday 21st November - 12pm - in All saints. ALL WELCOME.

Book of Remembrance

The online Book of Remembrance is open on the parish website. Please click the link on the page to add the names of your deceased family and friends.
blessedhugh.org.uk/book-of-remembrance

Evening talk - The Annunciation in Art - 20th November

There are few scenes in the Bible that have been painted more often than the Annunciation.

What is it about the image of an angel visiting a young woman that attracts so widely? Why would a secular culture find comfort or interest in that depiction? How is it that there is such visual variety in the interpretation of that event? How is it that the Annunciation is associated with Christmas rather than 25th March each year? Across at least eight centuries, The Annunciation has revealed how each era has imagined holiness, Mary's consent, and the presence of divine grace in the world.

Join us on Friday 20th November in the hall to find out the answers to these questions. Our speaker is the very knowledgeable Dr Peter Foot.

Peter is a former university teacher whose retirement from professional military education has given the opportunity to explore Art and the Christian faith - a favourite subject at school. He has given many illustrated talks on the subject. He is currently Lay Chair of the Vale of White Horse Deanery Synod.