

## Readings

**Reading I: Isaiah 49:3,5-6**

**Psalm: 39(40):2,4,7-10**

**Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

**Gospel: John 1:29-34**

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

John 1:29-30

Central to the Jewish faith was the Feast of Passover, the commemoration of God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12). In Jesus' time, Passover was one of three major annual feasts during which the Jews made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. Additionally, the Feast of Weeks celebrated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai and the first fruits of the harvest (Leviticus 23:15-22), and the Feast of Tabernacles recalled the Israelites' wandering in the desert and celebrated God's providence (Leviticus 23:33-43).

Recall the first Passover meal. Moses instructed the people to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, mark the doorposts of their homes with its blood, and eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs in haste, ready to depart. This act of faith and obedience protected them from the angel of death who passed over the marked houses, sparing the firstborn of Israel, while striking down the firstborn of Egypt. The Passover thus became a perpetual memorial of God's saving power and His covenantal faithfulness to His people.

Because of the Passover, the idea of a sacrificial lamb was intimately familiar to the Jewish people. The Jews were also familiar with the prophecy in Isaiah 53—often referred to as the Suffering Servant—in which the servant of the Lord is described as "a lamb led to the slaughter," who bears the sins of many (Isaiah 53:7, 10-12). Additionally, each morning and evening, a lamb was sacrificed in the temple as a continual offering for sin (Exodus 29:38-42). As Jesus began His public ministry, the first thing said of Him came from John the Baptist: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the

world." His words would have resonated within the minds and hearts of John's disciples. His disciples believed that John was a great prophet and the forerunner of the Messiah, sent to prepare the way for the Lord. They saw him as a holy man who called for repentance and renewal, and some even wondered if he himself might be the Christ, though John consistently denied this. Because John's ministry was one of preparation for the Messiah, his disciples would have anticipated the Messiah's imminent arrival. Imagine the excitement, surprise, questions, uncertainty, and hope that would have filled their minds and hearts as they listened to John's prophecy about Jesus. John continued, "He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" Though John's proclamation about Jesus took on a powerful significance for his disciples that first moment that he revealed Jesus as the Lamb of God, John's words must resonate within each of us today. Now that the Christmas Season is complete and we enter into Ordinary Time, we are invited to embrace Jesus' public ministry, with all His teachings and Paschal Sacrifice, as something extraordinary in our lives. We must approach His ministry with the same hope, enthusiasm, excitement, and anticipation that John's disciples experienced. Reflect today on the moment when John the Baptist's disciples heard him proclaim, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" Like them, strive to see Jesus with new eyes and hopeful anticipation as we begin Ordinary Time. This liturgical season marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, and it must also be a renewed beginning of His works in your life. Follow Him without reserve, allowing Him to take away your sins and share in His life and love.

*Most holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, I choose to follow You, for You are the Messiah, the Son of God. As we enter into Ordinary Time, please give me the grace to embrace Your public ministry in an extraordinary way. May Your working in my life begin anew, transforming me and leading me to the freedom won by Your Paschal Sacrifice. Jesus, I trust in You.*



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

### North Downs Pastoral Area

#### Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde  
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Telephone: 01367 358895  
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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](mailto:safeguarding.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Mass Setting: MASS OF RENEWAL

**Children: 802 – Cycle through verses**

**Entrance: 132 And did those feet in ancient time**

**Psalm: 39(40):2,4,7-10**  
*Here I am Lord I come to do your will*

**Offertory: 538 One bread one body**  
**Communion: 203 Come and be filled**  
**Recessional: 574 Peace, perfect peace**

Sunday Mass is at 10am.

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

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

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.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026



YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study and Commentaries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OePVHfY8P4c>

**TODAY IS THE FEASTDAY OF STO NINO** (Infant Jesus), a great devotion of the Filipino People. The Spanish Friars gave the statue when the locals were Christianised.



### DATES

18th February ASH WEDNESDAY  
29th March PALM SUNDAY  
3rd APRIL GOOD FRIDAY  
5th APRIL EASTER SUNDAY

**OPEN KITCHEN.** 6th February, 6th March, 10th April. All meals held at Blessed Hugh Catholic Church Hall from 12-2pm (lunch served at 12:30pm) Home cooked two course meal. Pay what you can.

**RCIA Candidates:** Darren Hall, Jamie Gans, Stewart Harwood-Hope, Mary Kasongo, Martha Kaweche State, Nicola Bullivant. RCIA Meetings Every Wednesdays at 730pm starting with Evening Prayers

**FHC (First Holy Communion) Candidates for 2026** on CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY on 7th of June, please email [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## First PPC Meeting 2026

"We are running the First Communion preparation for the third year in a row due to demand. Lorraine, Clare, and Kathleen will be guiding the preparation alongside the parents and we hope to start the preparation at the end of February. So far, we have 4 Communicants." PPC Mtg 15.01.2026

Fr Claro then recentred us by explaining that we need to redirect PPC activities to evangelise and reach out to gather people into the Church. We need to ask ourselves if we are encouraging more people to come to Church and when they do come are we making effort to get to know them and get them involved. The current events that we put on are mostly attended by the same faces. He asked that in future our agendas should centre around the sacraments. Improving RCIA, getting First Holy Communion parents involved in Church life, get families involved in Confirmation. It was said that a lot of people come to the Church from outside of the area of the Parish. As a PPC we need to be more visible and take responsibility to make new people feel welcome and proactively get to know them. See Minutes of the PPC Meeting on the Parish Website.

**CONFIRMATION 2026:** June 6th, Friday at 7.30pm at English Martyrs DIDCOT. Confirmation Candidates 2026, please email me [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**PPC & Finance Meetings**, see in the parish website

Current finance statement. ACCOUNT CDP Buckland Balance 12 January 2026 - £34,001, 17 November 2025 - £34,497. Bristol Fire have completed their inspection and service of the alarms and emergency light equipment.

**SUPPLY PRIEST:** I am going to the Philippines for the 1st death anniversary of my mother: January 19 – 8 February. Fr. Liam of the Carmelites is doing the Masses in my absence. He will hear 930am Confessions before the 10am Sunday Masses. - Fr. Claro.

## Parish questionnaire

Thanks to all who took the time to complete the parish questionnaire. The PPC will discuss the results and a summary will be provided in future newsletters and on the parish website.

### Formation corner

**Are you interested in becoming a catechist for the children's liturgy?** If so, speak to Kathleen Thomas.

**Are you interested in becoming a catechist for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)?** If so, speak to Peter Starr, Paul Padley or Wilibroard Chashi.

If you are keen for either role, but are worried that you don't know enough, or want guidance on how to do it, do not worry, not only do we provide guidance within the parish, but there are upcoming training days within the pastoral area too.

### RCIA and Catholic Forum

#### Formation corner

A reminder that the RCIA group meets every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in the church. All are welcome!

The RCIA group are following the Aquinas Catechism. St Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican. If you would like to hear the thoughts of some current day Dominicans as you do the washing up, fold the laundry or do your commute, then please consider these two podcasts:

From the Irish Dominicans:

[https://dominicans.ie/video\\_categories/podcasts/](https://dominicans.ie/video_categories/podcasts/)

From the American Dominicans:

<https://godsplaining.org/>

## Youth group

The youth group is open to all secondary school pupils. It meets in the parish hall between 3.30 and 5.00 p.m. every other Friday. The first meeting of this term is next Friday (23rd January). All welcome.

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### Evening talks-2026

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February- evening talk

**"Why Catholics are feminists and feminists should be Catholic"**

**Evening talk- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7.45 p.m.**

Our evening talk series for 2026 continues by looking at Christianity and feminism. Our speaker is Suzanne Topham who describes herself as an atheist-to-Catholic convert who grew up in the "muesli-belt" of North London. She lives in East Hendred, where she homeschools her four children. She will be speaking on:

**"Why Catholics are feminists and feminists should be Catholic"**

The talk will be in the parish hall and entry is free! (As in 2025, there will be fish and chips before the talk at 7.00 p.m., for which there will be a £14 charge. Please email [pbhf.bucklandandfaringdon@gmail.com](mailto:pbhf.bucklandandfaringdon@gmail.com) by 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb to book).