

## READINGS

**Reading I: Genesis 12:1-4**

**Psalm: 32(33):4-5,18-20,22**

**Reading II: 2 Timothy 1:8-10**

**Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9**

*"Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."*

[Matthew 17:4](#)

The Apostle Peter's reaction to the Transfiguration reveals that he was overwhelmed by his firsthand experience of a glimpse of Jesus' true glory. Not long before this moment, our Lord took His disciples north to Caesarea Philippi and asked them privately who they thought He was. Peter boldly proclaimed, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" ([Matthew 16:16](#)). In response, Jesus promised Peter that He would build His Church upon Peter's profession of faith and that Peter himself would be entrusted with the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. It was a good day for Peter.

Shortly after this, however, Jesus began to reveal to His disciples that He "must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised" ([Matthew 16:21](#)). In response, Peter pulled Jesus aside and said, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you" ([Matthew 16:22](#)). Jesus replied harshly to Peter's rebuke: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" ([Matthew 16:23](#)). It was a bad day for Peter.

Jesus then taught His disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" ([Matthew 16:24-25](#)). Not only was Jesus soon to suffer greatly, but His followers, including the Twelve, were called to follow Him on this difficult path. This was hard news for them to accept.

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the Transfiguration. Interestingly, Jesus allowed the disciples to reflect on His prediction of suffering for six days before taking Peter, James, and John up a mountain for prayer and solitude. Jesus,

aware of their confusion and struggles, was transfigured before their eyes. "[H]is face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him" ([Matthew 17:2-3](#)). Peter exclaimed in this moment of glory, "Lord, it is good that we are here." It was another good day for Peter.

**We all have good days and bad days. But what defines a good day versus a bad day?**

**Was the day of Jesus' Crucifixion a bad one for Him?**

Certainly not. Though filled with intense suffering, it was the most glorious day in history because His perfect obedience to the Father's will was fulfilled. Similarly, Peter's good and bad days can be understood in terms of his willingness to obey Christ, especially when the demands were great.

In our lives, we must also define our good and bad days through the lens of obedience to God's will, especially when His will calls us to bear the Cross and practice sacrificial love. It's easy to love God when we are consoled, but it becomes much more difficult when we face trials. Peter's declaration, "Lord, it is good that we are here," is the perfect prayer for us to echo in every circumstance. When we are consoled, as Peter was at the Transfiguration, we must pray this prayer. But unlike Peter's earlier missteps, we must also say, "It is good," when we encounter opportunities for sacrificial love, even when difficult.

Reflect today on your own good and bad days. Use the lens of holy obedience and your call to live a life of sacrificial love. Do not hesitate to cry out to the Lord, "It is good!" Consider whether you view every cross and every invitation to love sacrificially as something good. This is what God desires for you; embrace His desire with determination and joy.

**My sacrificial Lord, You embraced the Cross and saw it as truly good. You looked beyond the suffering and saw the fruits of Your sacrifice. Help me to imitate You by seeing every act of sacrificial love as the good I desire. I love You, Lord. Help me to love You and others with all my heart.**

**Jesus, I trust in You.**



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – 1ST MARCH 2026

### North Downs Pastoral Area

**Diocese of Portsmouth**

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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**  
(No Gloria during LENT)

**Children: 802 - Cycle through verses**

**Entrance: 711 We behold the splendour of God**

**Psalm: 32(33):4-5,18-20,22**

*Let your love be upon us O Lord.  
We hope in you! We hope in you!*

**Offertory: 176 Blest are you Lord**  
**Communion: 869 In the Lord is my joy and salvation**  
**Recessional: 757 You shall cross the barren desert**

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 LENT – 1ST MARCH 2026

YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study and Commentaries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHTmft6CyRI>

Matthew places the story of the Transfiguration immediately after the first prediction of the Passion. This lets the reader know, as the story darkens, that nothing which happens in Jerusalem has the power to cancel what God has already declared about Jesus. The cross does not overturn Jesus' identity as God's Son. Matthew gives the reader the Transfiguration so that the Passion is not misread. The suffering and death of Jesus are not a contradiction of who he is, but the way in which his identity will truly and finally be disclosed.



### IMPORTANT DATES

17 March St Patrick (Mass and celebration on Sunday 22 March)  
19 March Wednesday 6pm Mass for St. Joseph Solemnity at Faringdon  
24 March PASTORAL AREA LENTEN CONFESSION/RECONCIATION 7pm at Didcot.  
25 March Wednesday 6pm Mass at Buckland Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord  
29 March PALM SUNDAY or Passion Sunday  
31 March Tuesday Chrism Mass at St. John Cathedral  
2<sup>nd</sup> April MAUNDY THURSDAY  
3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL GOOD FRIDAY  
5<sup>th</sup> APRIL EASTER SUNDAY

PRAYER for the SICK. Fr. Peter Turbitt who is now in the Palliative Care.

### Church Boiler

The boiler at church has been serviced this week and flushed. It is now playing up and not working to order.

***“Please be prepared on Sunday as the heating in church may not be working, so please wrap up warm.”***

**OPEN KITCHEN.** 6 March, 10 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.

**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 Holy Communion Meeting 2026: 1130am – 1pm** - 1 Mar, 8 Mar, 22 Mar, 19 April, 26 April, 3 Mar, 10 May (Confession Practice) 17 May Confession, 7 June Corpus Christ 1st Holy Communion at 10am Mass.

**CONFIRMATION 2026:** June 5th, Friday at 7.30pm at English Martyrs DIDCOT.

Confirmation Candidates 2026, please email me [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Mwiza Mary Chashi, Wila Chashi, Kirsten Anne Parreno, Grace Kasongo  
Kate Kasongo, Grace Ann Malabanan, Nicole Malabanan

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

### Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation and the Liturgy Formation team invite you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on Saturday 9th May 2026 commencing with Mass at 9 am. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk focussing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### PASTORAL AREA LENTEN

**CONFESSION/RECONCIATION ON** 24 March at Didcot.

**Marriage Encounter Weekend** 28 Feb - 1 March at HI Express Hotel Swindon West SN58UD

### A Calling to the Diaconate?

Fr Dominic Adeiza asks men to consider whether

they are being called to the Diaconate... Have you ever wondered what the Diaconate is all about but something has held you back from finding out more about it? Is there a little voice in your head, that can't be silenced?

If that's YOU, why not 'Come and See' for yourself without committing to anything further?

We'll be holding an information event on Saturday 28th March at The English Martyrs Church, Didcot from 9am – 3pm where you'll get to hear first hand, from those who are involved and what it's been like for them. You've got nothing to lose!

If you'd like to attend, please call Pam on 07883 059529 to book a space and to help with catering requirements, or if you can't make it on the day, but would like to know more, please still get in touch on the above number, or email [diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### Formation corner- 2nd Sunday of Lent

Throughout Lent we will be looking at fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

#### Fasting- why fast?

##### Reason No. 1. Our Lord tells us to.

Fasting is recommended, or even commanded, at many points in the Old and New Testament, but it is in the Gospel of Matthew that we find Jesus speaking of it directly.

In Matthew 9:15, Jesus is responding to a question about why his disciples don't fast like those of John the Baptist and the Pharisees. He says "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast." Here, Jesus indicates that his disciples should fast after his Ascension.

In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus offers instructions about how to fast, with the clear indication that he expects his followers to fast. He says "when you fast", not "if you fast".

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

#### Prayer- the Jesus prayer

Just as it is reasonable to assume that every Catholic

knows the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be, you can assume that all Orthodox will know the Jesus prayer. It is also, however, found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and is commonly used in Eastern Catholic rites. The most common form runs:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

It is often repeated continually as a part of personal ascetic practice. The idea is that praying it becomes as natural and habitual as breathing, thus developing the "unceasing prayer" recommended by St Paul.

### Almsgiving- CAFOD

CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. It is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Its work focusses on working with local partners in diverse locations around the globe to provide support to the very poorest people on the planet. This can be food aid or fuel for warmth to people affected by war or famine, or it can be longer term development assistance, such as the provision of clean water supplies, better seeds or farming techniques. You can read more about CAFOD here: [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk).

