

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
20th JULY 2025

Reading I: Genesis 18:1-10

Psalm: 14(15):2-5

Reading II: Colossians 1:24-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak

Luke 10:38-39

It's interesting that it was Martha who welcomed Jesus, but it was Mary who sat at His feet listening to Him. As the story goes on, we discover that Martha took her responsibility of hospitality seriously; she was very busy preparing a meal. But it appears that Mary needed a different form of hospitality from our Lord Himself. As Martha prepared to feed Jesus so as to care for His physical hunger, Mary sought to be fed by our Lord so as to feed her spiritual hunger. And interestingly, it was the generosity of Martha who was diligent in preparing the meal that made it possible for her sister to receive the spiritual food she longed for.

When we read this story, we can easily become critical of Martha because she complained to Jesus about her sister. It is easy to see Martha's frustration in her words, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." And though Martha may have been a little impatient, Jesus' response to her was gentle and corrective.

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." What was that "better part?" It was Mary's prayerful attentiveness to Jesus. She was hungry for His teaching, and Jesus offered it to her in a very personal and loving way. And though this image of Mary before Jesus is a beautiful image to ponder and to use as a model of our own prayer, there is also something important to be said about Martha's role in making Mary's prayer possible. Because Martha was diligent in taking care of the

duties of hospitality, Mary felt the freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. Perhaps the ideal response from Martha would have been to notice that Mary was being spiritually fed by our Lord and to rejoice in that fact, giving her the continued freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. If Martha would have realised this, then she would have continued working in the background so that her sister could continue listening to Jesus. But even though Martha did interrupt this sacred moment for her sister, the fact remains that her initial diligence in taking care of preparing the meal did give Mary some time alone with Jesus.

In a similar way, we will all be given various opportunities in life to take care of the daily mundane tasks that are needed within a family or community. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that unless everyone does their equal part, then things are not fair. But being "fair" should not be our focus. True charity, especially within the family, means that, first and foremost, we look for opportunities to better the lives of those around us. For example, spending extra time cleaning a home so that others can enjoy it more adds much to family life. Or spending hours preparing a nice meal for family or friends may afford everyone the opportunity of time well spent together. These are only a couple of the countless ways that our diligence and generosity toward others is fruitful, especially within family life.

Reflect, today, upon these two women and the unique calling they each were given at the time of Jesus' visit to their house. One was called to be fed by our Lord as she sat at His feet. The other was called to work hard so as to make it easier for her sister to receive that spiritual nourishment. Know that both of these callings are important. For that reason, if God calls you to be more like Martha at times, rejoice in that fact and work hard at serving in many ways. If God calls you to be more like Mary at times, then rejoice in those moments and sit prayerfully at the feet of our Lord, being fed by His holy Words.

My gentle Lord, when You came to the home of Martha and Mary, You fed Mary with Your Word and fed Martha by your gentle correction. I thank You for these two women and the roles they both play in teaching me how to love and to serve. May I always be diligent in my service to others, and may I always embrace every moment that You invite me to sit at Your feet in prayer. Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – 20th JULY 2025

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

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Website: www.blessedhugh.org.ukActs 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 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: Genesis 18:1-10

Psalm: 14(15):2-5

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:24-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Mass Setting: Mass of the Celtic Saints
Children: 767

"Christ is our welcome Guest"

Entrance: 194 Christ be beside me

Psalm: 14(15):2-5
Those who do justice abide in your temple and dwell in your mountain, O God

Offertory: 273 Gifts of bread and wine
Communion: 435 Listen, let your heart Keep seeking

Recessional: 390 Jesus Christ is waiting

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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NOTE: I will be away from 22nd July to 26th August for Retreat and Levamen & Holidays. I am grateful to Fr. Andrew Burnham for standing in for me in my priestly duties.

Please contact the parish Administrator Andrew Chell if you have concerns about the parish.

andrew.chell@niab.com

You can contact me directly too at Fr. Claro Conde cconde8254@aol.com
This email is better than my diocesan email for international messages.

VOCATION.

Rev. Ryan Browne, ordained priest at Portsmouth Cathedral on 19th July.

PARISH FINANCE BUDGET can be found in our parish website, thanks to the Finance Team, Andrew Chell, Lorraine Brabin and Neill Taylor.

CALL FOR PEACE!

Faringdon Quakers and Faringdon Peace Group invite you to join them in the Market Place at 10.00 on Saturday 26th July to make a stand for peace in our troubled world.

Bring placards/banners and wear something red if possible.

At 10.30 we will walk to join others in Prayers for Peace at the Friends Meeting House in Lechlade Road. Coffee will be served here from 10.00. Please join us!

More details from Karen
karen@vogt.org.uk 01367-241707

CAFOD are hiring

Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice?

Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church?

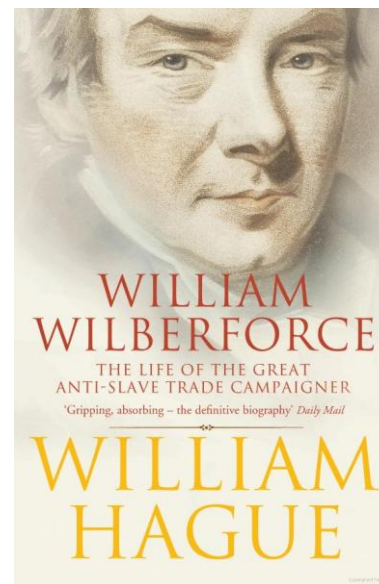
We are looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Follow the link for more details and please pass on to any friends or relatives who might be interested. Closing date 27 July 2025. See cafod.org.uk/work-with-us

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BOOKS TO READ THIS SUMMER

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE.

William Hague has written the life of William Wilberforce who was both a staunch conservative and a tireless campaigner against the slave trade. He shows how Wilberforce, after his agonising conversion to evangelical Christianity, was able to lead a powerful tide of opinion, as MP for Hull, against the slave trade, a process which was to take up to half a century to be fully realised. Indeed, he succeeded in rallying to his cause the support in the Commons Debates of some of the finest orators in Parliament, having become one of the most respected speakers of those times.



Enslaved: The New British Slavery by Rahila Gupta (Author).

Slavery in Britain did not end with William Wilberforce at the beginning of the nineteenth century. They may be largely invisible to us but living in our midst are thousands of slaves. Rahila Gupta seeks out five escapees and persuades them to tell us their stories in this compelling book. We meet a pregnant child from Sierra Leone who was locked up in a London house as a domestic slave; a Russian teenager trafficked into prostitution; a Chinese man who lives in fear of the Triads; a religious Somali woman who had to exchange sex for food; and a young Punjabi woman forced into marriage and repeatedly abused by her husband. These are the stories of those who have escaped, through a combination of courage, timing, luck and the humanity of those who helped them. Their testimonies are harrowing but they need to be heard.

Enslaved
THE NEW BRITISH SLAVERY

