

READINGS

Reading I: **Ezekiel 37:12-14**

Psalm: **129(130)**

Reading II: **Romans 8:8-11**

Gospel: **John 11:1-45**

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."* When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, *"Where have you laid him?"* They said to him, *"Sir, come and see."* And Jesus wept.

[John 11:32-35](#)

Jesus' humanity shines clearly in today's Gospel. In the face of Lazarus' death, Jesus is deeply moved by the grief around Him. The Gospel says He *"became deeply distressed and troubled"* and eventually *"wept."* The Greek word for *"deeply distressed," embriomaomai*, suggests a strong emotional disturbance, even indignation or anger. It could be translated as *"He snorted in spirit,"* indicating an involuntary, visceral response from the depth of His soul. Some commentators suggest Jesus' anger wasn't directed at the people weeping but at the reality of death itself, caused by sin. As God, Jesus knew death was never part of the Father's original plan for humanity. From a divine perspective, He saw death as a consequence of sin. From this point of view, death provoked righteous indignation and deeply troubled His human heart.

As the passage continues, Jesus' humanity is powerfully portrayed in the shortest verse in the Bible: *"And Jesus wept."* Why did He weep? Saint Paul reminds us in Hebrews: *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin"* ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). Jesus' tears show us that the Holy Trinity knows human pain firsthand. The Incarnate Son allowed Himself to experience sorrow, and the Father and the Holy Spirit shared in this sorrow through Him.

It's important to note that Jesus' sorrow was different from the weeping of Lazarus' sisters and the others present.

Jesus' weeping uses the Greek word *edakrysen*, which means *"to shed tears"* or *"weep silently."* His tears were personal, controlled, intimate, heartfelt, and full of divine compassion. In contrast, the weeping of the others is described by the Greek word *klaiō*, meaning loud wailing, a typical expression of communal and ritualistic mourning at the time. Jesus' grief was neither ritualistic nor excessive; it was intimate and heartfelt, born from personal sorrow and divine compassion.

We must never forget Jesus' deep compassion, empathy, and sorrow. His human heart feels the same emotions we do - He grieves when we grieve, shares in our pain, and is moved by the hold sin has on us. After feeling these emotions at Lazarus' death, Jesus stood outside the tomb and *"cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'"* ([John 11:43](#)). We can imagine the passion behind His command. In our lives, when we are trapped in sin or burdened by human weakness, we must hear Jesus calling us to freedom with the same divine authority and human passion.

Reflect today on Jesus' humanity and how He perfectly understands everything we experience. His deep empathy for our suffering and His joy when we rise with His grace show us how intimately He knows us. God became one of us in every way, sharing in our human condition - though without sin - so that we might share in His divinity. Ponder His humanity and let His closeness draw you to Him, giving you a share in His divine life.

Most compassionate Lord, You experienced human nature in its fullness.

Though You never sinned, You allowed Yourself to feel the effects of our sin and suffering, filling them with Your divine compassion.

Help me to always remember Your humanity, knowing that through it, I come to share in Your divinity.

Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 22ND MARCH 2026

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

email: cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Telephone: 01367 358895

Website: www.blessedhugh.org.uk

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 -

safeguarding.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Mass Setting: **BLESSED HUGH**
(no Gloria during Lent)
Christ breathes into us his living Spirit

Children: 802 - Cycle through verses

Entrance: 182 Breath on me breath of God

Psalm: 22(23)

There is Mercy in the Lord, there is fullness of redemption

Offertory: 748 I Am the Bread of Life
Communion: 882 O Lord hear my prayer
Recessional: 672 The Spirit lives to set us free

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 7.00pm. To join please use the link on the Parish website home page.

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YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study and Commentaries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o09g4czJAdg>



The raising of Lazarus is not simply a story about what Jesus once did, long ago, outside the village of Bethany. It is a revelation of who God is and how God acts. In John's Gospel, Jesus does not explain death away; he is deeply moved, he comes to the tomb, and he weeps. But then he speaks. And when he speaks, even what has been sealed, bound, and left for dead is summoned into life. The Gospel leaves us with a question, not about Lazarus, but about ourselves: what wounds, sins, or failures have we shut away and learned to live with, telling ourselves that this is simply how things are? Today's Gospel assures us that God's word is still spoken into such places, and that no stone is too heavy to roll aside, no loss to complete, for the voice of Christ to reach.

IMPORTANT DATES

24th March PASTORAL AREA LENTEN CONFESSION/RECONCIATION 7pm at English Martyrs Manor Cres, Didcot OX11 7AJ

25th March Wednesday 6pm Mass at Buckland Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

29th March 10am Mass PALM SUNDAY or Passion Sunday
31st March Tuesday 11am Chrism Mass at St. John Cathedral
EASTER TRIDUUM
2nd April 6pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Mass
3rd APRIL GOOD FRIDAY, 11am Station of the Cross, 3pm Good Friday Service
4th APRIL 8pm SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

5th April Easter Sunrise Service at Folly Hill followed by Breakfast at Blessed Hugh Hall

5th APRIL 10am EASTER SUNDAY Mass

OPEN KITCHEN. 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
First Holy Communion Meeting 2026: 1130am – 1pm -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
Mwiza Mary Chashi, Wila Chashi, Kirsten Anne Parreno, Grace Kasongo, Kate Kasongo, Grace Ann Malabanan, Nicole Malabanan
TRAINING HOW TO USE THE SUNDAY MISSAL after the Mass with Dr. David Williamson

PPC & Finance Meetings, see in the parish website

Sick: Canon Peter Turbitt has moved into Elmbrook Court Nursing Home in Wantage. He is in good spirits.

Bible Study – Change of time

Our weekly Bible Study on Zoom will now take place at **7pm** every Monday. Each week we study the readings for the following Sunday's Mass. Together we try to better understand the scriptures, please join us if you can – just follow the link on the Parish website home page, blessedhugh.org.uk.

Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (from Liturgy Team)

Fr Anthony Fyk is organising a formation morning for EMHC on Saturday 9th May 2026 at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk by Fr Jeremy Corley, 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. Please could you advertise this in your newsletters and ask interested people to register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Formation corner- 4th Sunday of Lent

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

Fasting- why fast?

Reason No. 4. Fasting unites us with the suffering of others.

Most of us have not experienced true hunger. Not having eaten enough, and knowing that tomorrow, again, there will not be enough to eat. However, for many, both in this country and especially abroad, hunger is an unavoidable feature of their lives. When we fast, and experience hunger, we deepen our gratitude for all the food that we do have and nurture compassion for those who do live with genuine scarcity.

Prayer- The Angelus

With the Solemnity of the Annunciation coming up on 25th March, it is fitting to look at the Angelus. In fact, it is a very suitable prayer for the whole of Lent. The name commemorates the Angel Gabriel, who announced to Mary that she would bear Jesus. The words in the first half of the Hail Mary are the words of the angel to Mary, and the words of her cousin Elizabeth at the Visitation. The Angelus is prayed three times a day, at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m., and was traditionally announced by a bell.

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R/. Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh,

R/. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. *Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*



The Angelus by Jean-Francois Millet. The famous 19th century painting shows a peasant couple who have stopped work to pray the evening Angelus. The belltower of the village church is just visible in the distance. This painting is one of the most famous evocations of ordinary, everyday piety and devotion.

Almsgiving- Friends of the Holy Land

Friends of the Holy Land is an ecumenical (Catholic and Anglican) charity, that cares for Christians living with extreme suffering and injustice in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jordan and Israel. Providing immediate relief and long-term practical support, so that they can remain in the land of their birthright and have hope to survive and thrive.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Christians made up roughly 29% of the overall population of the Holy Land. Today they account for less than 2%. Those remaining face such difficult conditions that many will be forced to leave their homes. Soon this dwindling community may cease to exist at all without our help. This fact, little recognised by Christians around the world, is what drives FHL.

FHL provides practical assistance with everyday living costs. We help people access healthcare and education; and to start and grow businesses. Currently, we are also providing humanitarian aid. Every single day, they aim to provide opportunity and hope.

You can learn more about Friends of the Holy Land and donate to support their work here: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>