



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland
SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING – 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

Focussing the Gospel

Key words and phrases:

When the Son of Man comes; Come, you who are blessed; you did for me; you did not do for me, eternal punishment, eternal life

To the point:

“Who am I?” This question Jesus put to his disciples long ago remains a question for all times and all disciples. To be faithful rocks upon which the church is built, we must know who Jesus is for us, listen to what he teaches us, and guard against anything prevailing against his church. Peter and Paul’s faithful and fruitful discipleship rested on the rock of their knowing Jesus. Our own faithful and fruitful discipleship rests on this same rock.

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the First Reading:

Ezekiel portrays a shepherd God who looks after and cares for the lost, the strayed, the injured, the sick. As God cares for us, so are we to care for others.

... to experience:

We tend to identify as those who are distant from our daily living, for example, victims of famine in a foreign land. But those in need are actually very near us; wherever there is human need, there is Christ and we are called to respond.



Matthew 25:31-46

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

O Jesus,
King of Creation,
you came from glory,
to the rough roads of Galilee;
you took a crown of sharp thorns,
and received a killing cross for your throne

You put on poverty, to be like us,
so that we might be holy like you
are holy.

So let us care for your creation that is ill,
welcome the stranger,
visit him in prison, feed her and clothe her,
and slake your deepest thirst.

Book of Remembrance

In this month of November we have an online Book of Remembrance on the Parish website. Please add the names of your deceased family, friends and loved ones so that we can pray for them all.

See here:
<https://blessedhugh.org.uk/book-of-remembrance/>

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Liturgies at the Cathedral



Bishop Philip will celebrate the following liturgies. They will be live streamed on the Cathedral website: www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk
Saturday 09:00 Holy Mass
Sunday 12:00 Holy Mass (Cathedral)
Monday - Friday
07:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
08:10 Morning Prayer & Benediction
08:30 Holy Mass (Latin on Wednesday)

Ministries

Music Director: Sjoerd Vogt
Organist: Karen Vogt
SafeGuarding Officer: Mary Hughes
Children’s Liturgy: Clare Cottingham
Parish Hall: Sue Cole (01367 241446)
Pastoral Assistant: Tony Fecher
Altar Servers: Denise Cocquerel
Gift Aid: Jack Thornton
Webmaster: Neill Taylor

Praying the Readings at Home

**1st Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17
Psalm 23
2nd Reading Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28
Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46**

*When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him, he will sit upon
his glorious throne.*

(Gospel)



Fra Angelico,
Cristo crucificado,
1439-1443

Masses at Blessed Hugh
During the national lockdown there are no Masses at Blessed Hugh.

Fr. Claro will celebrate Mass at Blessed Hugh on Sundays at 10 am, and you can follow a livestream at home. The Sunday 10 am Mass is livestreamed using Zoom so you can follow from home. You will find the link here:
<https://blessedhugh.org.uk/events-and-services/>

You can follow Fr. Claro’s daily Masses from his home on Facebook Live here:
<https://facebook.com/claro.conde>
His current schedule is:
8.30 am Regular Daily Masses Monday to Sunday.
6 pm Masses on Wednesdays (Our Mother of Perpetual Help), Saturdays and Sundays

Sunday Reflection & Message
Fr. Claro Conde

Christi the King Homily

Sheep and Goats

The Bible takes a positive view of “sheep.” They are blessed by the Father. They have passed six vital tests: they have fed the king when he was hungry, given drink to him when he was thirsty, welcomed him when he was a stranger, clothed him when he was naked or visited him when he was sick or in prison. Christian tradition adds another act, the burial of the dead, to make these the “seven corporal works of mercy.”

This comes as a surprise to them. They have no memory of ever having served the king in any of these ways.

He reminds them that as long as they did it to the least, the most vulnerable of his brothers and sisters, they did it to him.

Poor “goats”, they failed the test and condemned to eternal punishment.

The parables of the end times have spoken continuously about the need to be ready for the mysterious coming of the Son of Man.

It is now clear what readiness means. Jesus’ first sermon on a hillside in Galilee began by proclaiming BEATITUDES that would distinguish his disciple. His last sermon, on a hill overlooking Jerusalem, ends by enumerating six works of mercy that are a perfect match for the beatitudes.

Matthew is a practical teacher, transforming the ideal into the practical.

To quote St John of the Cross, “*in the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.*”

(Reality, Irish Redemptorist Magazine, November 2020)

Although this is an eschatological passage about future times, its purpose is to effect change in the present. The primary point is not to affirm Christ the King as the final judge but rather to affirm that Christ the King is present now among the poor, the immigrants, the sick and the imprisoned. The theological implications are massive and should not be minimized. Jesus proclaims that being a righteous person of faith means acting on behalf of those most in need, as Christ the King is with them. Living faithfully requires a commitment to serving and advocating for the most vulnerable in society, not dehumanizing, denigrating or disregarding them.

As we conclude this difficult year and prepare for a new liturgical cycle, we should reflect on what we have done and will do to live out the Gospel in conjunction to love and serve others

[\(Faith is active care for others, not just belief\)](#)

Fr. Claro

Books recommended for Reading

PHILANTHROPY: Form Aristotle to Zuckerberg by Paul Valley who delivers an original and ground-breaking exploration of historical and contemporary PHILANTHROPY.

ALIVE in GOD by Timothy Radcliff OP who tries to answer the questions: How can the Christian faith speak to our contemporaries, in a world that is not only increasingly secular, but where religion in the public arena often becomes a form of fundamentalism?



Parish Events

There are two new weekly events to add to your calendars:

Bible Study Mondays 8-9pm

We will have a Bible study with Fr Claro on Zoom on Mondays 8.00 p.m. - reflecting on the coming Sunday Mass Readings. A Zoom link will be available on the parish website.

Friday Parish Mass

We will have a Friday Mass each week at 10 am on Zoom. A Zoom link will be available on the parish website.

PPC meeting and after discussion with Fr. Claro.

Because of the rising figures of those contracting the virus, we have decided that there will be no opening of the Church or Hall for private prayer until we see those figures coming down. Fr. Claro is saying Mass at 10am via Zoom and Facebook on Sunday from the Church, and we do not want to make him vulnerable to contracting the virus.

In addition there will not be any Communion being distributed after Sunday Mass, again until the figures begin to decline.