

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME –
23RD FEBRUARY 2025**

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23

Psalm: 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

“But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Luke 6:35-36

It is certainly difficult to be “**kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.**” But doing so is exactly what our Lord commanded us to do. And His command is not a command in the sense of being a burden. On the contrary, it’s a command that frees us from the ingratitude and wickedness we encounter.

Oftentimes, when we encounter ingratitude from another, or any other form of wickedness, we tend to react in kind. Our fallen human nature lures us into cruelty when faced with cruelty. We criticize, condemn, attack and get angry. But Jesus is very clear that this is not how the “**Most High**” acts toward the wicked. And it is not how He acts toward us. In the end, the wicked who fail to repent will endure the consequences of their rejection of God’s mercy. But until that final judgment, hope of conversion must always be present. And for that reason, we must never give up on another, no matter how difficult. Kindness shown to everyone, in every circumstance, goes to the heart of the mission we have received as children of God.

Think about the person in your life who seems unworthy of your kindness and generosity.

**Why are they undeserving?
Are they truly undeserving?**

The truth, according to our Lord’s teaching, is that these are not questions we should even ask ourselves. Instead, we must fully commit ourselves to loving everyone who appears to be our enemy, and do good to them and to everyone whom we encounter. Though this is difficult, it won’t be if we understand the goodness that God has shown to us.

God has shone us perfect goodness, not because He expected anything back, but simply because He has willed to love us. If we want to be children of God the Most High, then we must reciprocate the love given to us. That’s the nature of God’s love. It cannot be contained. It cannot be selfishly received without also allowing it to pour forth from our lives. When we understand this, we will understand the reason Jesus instructed us to be “**kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.**” It is simply because this is how God has treated us.

Reflect, today, upon the unlimited love God has for you. It is beyond what you could ever comprehend. Reflect, also, upon the great benefit there is in opening yourself to God’s perfect love, kindness, generosity and mercy. The benefit is that you are able to be filled with that which you receive. And as you receive this love of God, it necessarily overflows into the lives of everyone you encounter, the good and the wicked. Everyone must always be offered this love. Do not hesitate, for God does not hesitate with you.

Most merciful Lord, You bestow Your abundant goodness upon all people, the good and bad alike.

You never cease offering Your love and mercy. May I always be counted among those who fully open themselves to Your grace, and may I always offer this same depth of love to all. Jesus, I trust in You.



**Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 23RD FEBRUARY 2025**

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

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Telephone: 01367 358895

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 - Mary Hughes

PRAYING THE READINGS AT HOME

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23

Psalm: 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Mass Setting: Mass for the City Children 762 - Gospel Acclamation: 51

Entrance: 470 Make me a channel of your peace

**Psalm: 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13
Merciful and tender, faithful is the Lord.**

**Offertory: 865 Eat this bread ...
Communion: 94 Abba, Abba Father
Recessional: 878 May the Lord Bless you**

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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CALENDAR

5th March **ASH WEDNESDAY** 11am Mass & 6pm Mass Blsd Hugh Faringdon
5th March **Ash Wednesday** 730pm PRAYER for CREATION, a Lenten Reflection at the All Saints Church.

6th March 1030am **The Ministry of Reconciliation + The Foundations of Reconciliation** (CTin-Faringdon) at Blsd Hugh Faringdon

Rite of Election 8th March Satur-day 11am The Rite of Election for 2025

19th March **Feast of St Joseph** 11am & 6pm Masses Blessed Hugh.

03-Apr Wednesday 7.00pm **The Ministry of Reconciliation**. Radical Openness to the Other (CTin Faringdon) at Blsd Hugh

HOLY WEEK

13th April **PALM SUNDAY**

17th April **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

18th April **GOOD FRIDAY**

20th April **EASTER SUNDAY**

Open Kitchen this winter to open just once a month. This will be on the second Friday of the month. March 14th.

SEE: Minutes of Finance and PPC Meetings at our parish website. Churches Together in Faringdon (CTiF) minutes of meeting.

FINANCE MEETING on 24 March via on Line

SEE: Documents on the Diocesan 10-year Plan at our Parish Website.

Evening talks

Thank you to everyone who attended the first two evening talks of the year. Interesting topics and great to see so many people there. There will be a pause for Lent (as the Churches Together in Faringdon usually have a Lenten series of talks), and the talks will resume after Easter.

CAFOD's Lent appeal

This Jubilee year, Pope Francis has called on us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This is CAFOD's mission - to bring your love for your neighbour to people suffering the impacts of war, global debt and climate change and to give them the support, skills and tools they need to find their hope for the future.

The CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 14th March: Lent Appeal 2025

Once again, there is a CAFOD Big Lent Walk (200km in 40 days), that you can join: The Big Lent Walk 2025

Watch this space for more information about CAFOD's Lent appeal.

PROPOSED DATES FOR 1st Holy Communion

11.30am to 1pm 2nd March, 16th March, 30th March, 27th April, 11th May, 25th May, 8th June, 15th June for Reconciliation, 22nd June for First Communion. Please contact Kathleen Thomas kalizt@btinternet.com

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FORMATION DAYS

3rd May 2025, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Includes a session on taking Holy Communion the "sick and the housebound".

18 October 2025 Day for Readers
10 am to 2 pm St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX
Please RSVP to

liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

There will also be a day for Ministers of Children's Liturgy on Saturday 7th June: further details to follow. Details can be found on the attached poster. They will take place at St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke. Anyone interested is encouraged to register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Certificate in Catechesis

The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph in Lymington are offering a 2-year Certificate in Catechesis to equip parish catechists, parents, and grandparents to transmit the Catholic faith to others. This Certificate is approved by the Bishops' Conference, and offers a formation developed from the 2020 Directory for Catechesis, relevant to the pastoral context we face in our parishes. It is delivered online in weekly sessions with notes, recordings, and presentations made available to the students. It is comprehensive in its overview of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and in its practical application to all forms of catechesis. 2 in-person days are offered each year to build up the student community and fellowship in faith. Apply now to begin your studies in September 2025.

https://www.lightoftruth.uk/_files/ugd/918d40_b194877f9dad4310abb4e486d5d72759.pdf

