

## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 28TH APRIL 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 9:26-31**  
**Psalm: 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 3:18-24**  
**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.”*

**John 15:1-3**

Pruning a vine is an important part of helping it to grow and produce not only more fruit but the best fruit. If left unpruned, a grape vine will eventually produce less fruit and poorer quality fruit. Good pruning helps to direct the nourishment of the vine to the new buds that are most fruitful.

Jesus’ teaching above uses the imagery of pruning a vine to help us understand that faith must lead to charity.

**First**, Jesus says that He is the “*true vine*.” He is the only source of the nourishment we need for the new life of grace. He is the only way to Heaven and salvation. Knowing our Lord and being attached to Him firmly is faith.

**Second**, our Lord says that He takes away every branch that does not bear fruit. This indicates that faith without the good fruit of charity is dead and is like a branch on a vine that produces nothing.

**Third**, when Jesus finds a branch that bears good fruit, he doesn’t leave it alone. Instead, He prunes it with loving attention so that “*it bears more fruit*.”

To apply these teachings to your own life, begin by looking at your faith as if it were a branch firmly attached to a vine.

**Do you believe all that God has spoken through His holy Word?**

It is useful to regularly examine your conscience in regard to your faith. Since faith is the first step in the spiritual life, it must remain firmly grounded in the Truth God has revealed. This means we must regularly study the Word of God as it is revealed through the Scriptures and the catechetical teachings of the Church, and assent to those teachings with all our mind.

Next, after affirming your faith in all that God has spoken through the Scriptures and the Church, try to examine your charity.

**Do you see concrete acts of love in your life that result from your faith?**

In other words, we can “love” many things in a purely emotional sort of way. But charity is based on faith, not on how we feel. Charity is the fruit of faith.

**What acts of charity can you point to in your life?**

**What have you sensed God calling you to do in a selfless and sacrificial way?**

**Have you done it?**

Finally, when you discover the ways that charity is alive within you, know that God will focus His pruning there. Pruning can be painful. It will require sacrifice, patience in the face of trial, overcoming selfishness, and doing things you don’t feel like doing. In fact, sometimes God even makes charitable acts seem unpleasant as a way of pruning your motivations and making them more pure, based more on faith than on emotion. But this is good.

Reflect, today, upon this holy imagery from Jesus. It’s a lesson from nature that reveals the supernatural life of grace at work. Don’t be deterred by the pruning God wants to do. Embrace suffering with love, respond to injustice with forgiveness, offer mercy when you don’t feel like it, and seek to serve selflessly those who seem undeserving. Doing so will prune you so that God will be able to build up His Kingdom in glorious ways through you.

**Jesus, most glorious Vine, You and You alone are the source of all nourishment in life. From You all good things come.**

**Help me to have a firm faith in You and all that You have revealed, so that this faith will bud forth and bring about an abundance of good fruit for the glorious building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.**



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 28TH APRIL 2024

### North Downs Pastoral Area

**Diocese of Portsmouth**

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

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Telephone: 01367 358895

Website: [www.blessedhugh.org.uk](http://www.blessedhugh.org.uk) Acts 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

**Adult Catechesis (RCIA)** - Mrs. Ann Bennell & Team  
(incoming Parish Safeguarding Officer)

**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

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**Mass Setting: Ivory Coast Mass.**

**Children: 767** Be the centre of my life

**Entrance: 590** Rejoice in the Lord always

**Psalm: 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32**

*You are my praise when your people gather;  
when your people gather you will be my praise.*

**Offertory: 273** Gifts of bread and wine  
**Communion: 862** Bless the Lord, my soul  
**Recessional: 169** Bind us together, Lord

### Masses at Blessed Hugh

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.

## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 28TH APRIL 2024

I thank Jesus the High Priest for my 43rd Priestly Anniversary which is on this Sunday. I was ordained priest on 28 of April 1981 at the Redemptorist Church in Tacloban City, Leyte. It is also my 30-year ministry in UK, 1 year Margate, Kent; 11 years London, 5 years Isle of Wight, 7 years Southampton, 3 years Portsmouth and more than 3 years now her in Faringdon. In the Philippines, I gave missions in different Islands (there 7,000 islands in the Philippines), mostly in the mountains and slums organising Small Basic Christian Communities. I don't why I am counting the years now.

I am enjoying my pre senior moments learning more about life in science and theology. Only at this time that I have been reading lots of books many of which were my textbooks 50 years old. I am also joining Online conferences on Social Encyclicals of the Church and the Popes organised by the Dominican LasCasas Institute in Oxford. I am encouraging my confrere – priests and my parishioners to study and learn more about the Bible and our faith. We are a learning, not just a worshipping community. The more I know my God, the more I love Him and commit more to Him in my Ministry in Proclaiming the Risen Lord.

Many Christians especially Catholics are now stale in their faith. We need to invigorate one another in the Risen Lord as People of God.

The Filipinos and Asylum Seekers, my adopted families, are inviting us for a “surprised” Tea & Coffee and food afterwards. Come and celebrate with us.

### At the Mass

Let us also pray for Kevin and Lisa Viller who are going to get married in Scotland next month.

## MAY

Faringdon Town Council will hold the town meeting on Wednesday 1st May 2024. We invite all local organisations and groups to write a short report about the 2023.24 year, April to April, to be included in our report pack.

7th -14th MAY, **Pilgrimage to POLAND**

9th MAY THURSDAY, **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Solemnity**

19th **MAY PENTECOST SUNDAY**

31ST MAY FRIDAY, **VISITATION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Those who want to have confessions, or Home Visit please email Fr. Claro at [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Take note that we have an office email, [office.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:office.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for inquiries about baptism, first holy communion, confirmation, marriage and other parish matters.

**CONFIRMATION DATE:** Saturday 11th of May at St John Cathedral in Portsmouth  
First Holy Communion: Feast of Corpus Christi  
Sunday 2nd of June 2024

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Sunday 2nd of June 2024

**ATTENTION GIFT AIDERS.** The Charity number of the Diocese has changed, you need to fill up an updated form to claim for Gift Aid from the HRMC. See Nerisa in the church to get and submit the forms.

**PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND:** Pilgrimage to Poland & the Divine Mercy, 7th - 14th May 2024, Chaplain to the group: Fr. Claro Conde. Contact 01793 881166/ 020 3720 0450, [info@allsaintstravel.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintstravel.co.uk)

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** 18th - 21st Jun 2024 contact ALL Saints Travel Contact 01793 881166/ 020 3720 0450, [info@allsaintstravel.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintstravel.co.uk)



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland

### 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 28TH APRIL 2024

#### New Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Rev. Monsignor Paul James Curry, a priest of the Diocese of Westminster, until now Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories, Kensington, as Titular Bishop of Ramsbiria (Ramsbiriensis) and Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for his new ministry.

#### New Auxiliary Bishops for the Archdiocese of Birmingham

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed two new auxiliary Bishops for the Archdiocese of Birmingham. They are Rev. Monsignor Timothy Francis Menezes as Titular Bishop of Tugga (Thuggensis) until now, Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral of St Chad, Birmingham, and Rev. Canon Richard Adrian Walker as Titular Bishop of Mortlach (Murthlacensis) until now, Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Please keep both of them in your prayers.

#### The Liturgy Project: Formation Days

The Diocese's Liturgical Formation Team will be hosting the following Formation Days at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX:

**A Day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** Saturday 4th May 2024 9:30am – 2:30pm

**A Day for Readers:** Saturday 19th October 2024 9:30am – 2:30pm  
Please RSVP to [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

#### Blessed Hugh Young Families group

After Mass on 5th May the Young Families group are going to take a stroll up Folly Hill (and have a picnic if the weather is nice).

If you have children aged 5 or under, please join us.

