

**17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44**  
**Psalm: 144(145):10-11,15-18**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6**  
**Gospel: John 6:1-15**

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, **“Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.”**

**John 6:11-12**

The people who were present for this miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish had to journey to be there. First, they followed Jesus to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, and then they followed Him up a mountain in a remote area. This is significant because it tells us that a miracle of such magnitude could only take place for those who had faith and acted on that faith. Jesus could have easily performed this miracle in the Temple in Jerusalem or in a synagogue where people doubted Him. If He did that, then many of His skeptics and critics would have seen His almighty power with their own eyes. Jesus could have also done this miracle in Nazareth, His hometown, in the presence of His extended family and friends. Perhaps if He had done this, then they would have come to believe in Him. But Jesus didn't do this incredible miracle in places where faith was lacking. Instead, He went to a remote area where only those who truly wanted to be with Him were present.

Note that the actions by which Jesus performed this miracle are similar to the way He instituted the Holy Eucharist during the Last Supper. We read above that Jesus

**“took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them...”**

Though this miracle is recorded in all four Gospels, in John's Gospel it is a prelude to Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse in which Jesus teaches,

**“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”**

Therefore, this miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish should be seen as a teaching about the Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist that Jesus feeds us to superabundance. The Eucharist is the gift of His very life and the food that will bring us to eternal life.

Unfortunately, it seems that very few people ever discover the gift of the Eucharist. Many people look at their participation in Mass as a duty that they must fulfill rather than as an invitation to share in the superabundant life. The only way we will discover the superabundant life given to us through the Eucharist is by working to imitate the faith of the people whom Jesus fed on that mountain. Again, the people who received this miracle had to journey either around or across the sea and climb a mountain. So also with us, the only way to come to a fruitful participation in the Eucharist is to make a concerted effort. The journey we make is one of faith, and the mountain we climb is one of prayer. Unless we believe deeply in our Lord, believe in the superabundant and transforming power of the Eucharist, seek it out faithfully every week and do so prayerfully, we will never be fed in this superabundant way.

Reflect, today, upon the symbolism of Jesus traveling to this remote area so as to perform this most incredible miracle. See this journey that you are invited to take as a journey toward the discovery of the superabundant grace bestowed upon you through the Most Holy Eucharist. The only way that you will receive this grace is by committing yourself to the journey of faith and prayer. Don't miss out. Don't ignore the incredible value of this Gift. Seek out our Lord and discover His Gift of superabundant grace within your fruitful participation in the Holy Mass.

**My Eucharistic Lord, You call me to journey up the mountain of faith in the most Holy Eucharist through prayer and determination.**  
**May I more deeply discover the great value of the Holy Mass and seek to be fed by You in this superabundant way.**  
**Jesus, I trust in You.**



**Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland  
17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**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  
**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 Hugh

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**Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of Pope Paul-  
With Celtic Alleluia**

**Children: 783**

**Entrance: 736 Where the love of Christ unites us**

**Psalm: 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6**

***You open your hand, you open your hand, you  
open your hand to fill our need.***

**Offertory: 700 Vaster far than any ocean  
Communion: Taste and See the goodness of the  
Lord (sheets)**

**Recessional: 716 We have a dream**

**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.

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**Sunday World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly**

Pope Francis has decided to institute a Church-wide celebration of a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Starting this year, it will be held on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols encourages us in his short message that young people should talk to their grandparents if they want to be a sign of hope for the world.

Pope Francis highlighted to the Elderly that this helps them better understand that they have the vocation "to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones" [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)

The Catholic Grandparents Association have resources for the day on their website at: <http://www.catholicgrandparentsassoci...>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsOvr4bYzzI&t=38s>

**AUGUST**

6th August Tuesday Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

14th August Wednesday 5.30 Rosary then Mass for Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of our Lady.

**SEE Minutes of Finance and PPC Meetings at our parish website.**

**NOTE:** Asylum Seekers are back at Brackendale, Ferndale Street, Faringdon, SN7 7AJ  
More Asylum Seekers need our prayers, emotional support and friendship.

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

**The Liturgy Project: Formation Days**

The Diocese's Liturgical Formation Team will be **A Day for Readers:** Saturday 19th October 2024  
9:30am – 2:30pm  
Please RSVP to [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY  
Saturday 12th October**

On Saturday 12th October we will be holding a Marian carol concert (rather like a Christmas carol concert, but hymns in praise of Our Lady), in the church at 4 p.m., followed by a shared dinner in the hall. We have invited the other Catholic parishes in our area to attend, so this is a great chance to get to know our brothers and sisters in faith. We hope that lots of you will be able to attend (we will be asking for volunteers to help set up and clear up nearer the date), and our visitors will surely be blown away by the excellent food and hospitality!



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**BOOKS TO READ THIS SUMMER:**

**On This Holy Island:**

**St. Augustine's Confessions Audio CD by William R. Cook; Ronald B. Herzman (Author)The Catholic Church: A History by William Cook, Audible**

How did the Catholic Church become one of the most influential institutions in the world - a force capable of moving armies, inspiring saints, and shaping the lives of a billion members?  
Your journey begins in the early years of the church, when Jesus's disciples developed the first communities of faith. You'll get a chance to delve into crucial ancient church documents and gain an intriguing glimpse into the lives of these early believers. From there, you'll trace the development and spread of this nascent religion throughout the world, covering crucial developments including the conversion of the Roman Empire to Catholicism, the schism between the Roman faith and the Greek Orthodox Church, and the Reformation.

**First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis. Published: 13/02/2024. Austen Ivereigh.**

Drawing on the wisdom of Pope Francis and the spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Austen Ivereigh has written a captivating spiritual guide for our turbulent age. Designed as an eight-day Ignatian retreat, First Belong to God serves as a roadmap to deeper discipleship. It does this by focusing on the three foundational forms of belonging: to God, to creation, and to others. Whether you're embarking on a solitary spiritual expedition or a journey with like-minded individuals, First Belong to God offers the next best thing to a personal retreat with Pope Francis: a full-soul immersion into his wisdom via the classic Jesuit retreat that shaped him profoundly.

**CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY at BOARS HILL in OXFORD. See:**

<https://mailchi.mp/oxcacs/carmelite-connection-september-edition-13414906?e=35d59b227a>

