

## FEAST OF ST PETER & ST PAUL – 29TH JUNE 2025

Reading I: **Acts 12:1-11**

Psalm: **33(34):2-9**

Reading II: **2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**

Gospel: **Matthew 16:13-19.**

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**Matthew 16:17-19**

Saints Peter and Paul are often referred to as two of the great "Pillars of the Church." They each played an incredibly essential role in the establishment of the early Church. And though each of their roles was essential and foundational, their roles were as different as they were different as persons.

Peter was a family man, a local fisherman, uneducated and quite ordinary. From what we know about him prior to being called by Jesus, there was nothing that made him uniquely qualified to become one of the pillars of the new Church to be established by the Son of God. Jesus simply called him, and he responded. Jesus got into Peter's boat, ordered him to lower the nets, and produced a huge catch of fish. When Peter saw this miracle, he fell down at Jesus' feet and acknowledged that he was "a sinful man" who was unworthy of being in Jesus' presence (See **Luke 5:8**). But Jesus informed Peter that he would from now on be catching men. Peter immediately left everything behind and followed Jesus.

Paul describes himself as "a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cili'cia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gama'li-el, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day" (**Acts 22:3**). Paul was well educated in the strictest interpretation of the Jewish law, understood philosophy and was quite zealous as a young man.

Recall, also, that prior to becoming a convert to Christianity, he "persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it" (**Galatians 1:13**). In many ways, Paul would have been seen as the most unlikely person to be chosen to be a pillar of the Church, because he so vigorously opposed it at first. He even supported the killing of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Though each of these men would have been considered by many as very unlikely founders of the Christian Church, this is exactly what they became. Paul, after his conversion, traveled far and wide to preach the Gospel, founding several new Churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe. Eventually he was arrested in Jerusalem, brought to Rome for trial and was beheaded. Over half of the New Testament books are attributed to Paul and half of the Acts of the Apostles detail Paul's missionary journeys. Paul is especially known for his missionary activity to the Gentiles, those who were not Jews. Peter's role was truly a unique one. His name was changed from "Simon" to "Peter" by Jesus. Recall Jesus saying, "And I tell you, you are Peter (Petros), and on this rock (petra) I will build my church...(Matthew 16:18). "Peter" in Greek is Petros. However, the Greek word petra means a rock as a solid formation that is fixed, immovable, and enduring. Therefore, Jesus chose to make Peter a solid foundation of immovable rock on which the Church was to be built.

Reflect, today, upon these two holy and unique pillars of our Church. As you do, ponder how God may want to use you to continue their mission in this world. Though Saints Peter and Paul are among the greatest and most consequential Christians within our world, their mission must continue, and you are among the instruments that God wants to use. Commit yourself to this mission so that the preaching of the Gospel and the rock foundation of our Church will remain strong within our day and age just as it was of old.

Saint Peter, you were uniquely chosen to be a rock foundation of faith upon which the Church was established. Saint Paul, you went forth to preach this faith far and wide, establishing many new communities of faith. Please use me, dear Lord, to continue the mission of Your Church so that the faith may be firmly planted in the minds and hearts of all Your people throughout the world. Jesus, I trust in You.



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland FEAST OF ST PETER & ST PAUL – 29th JUNE 2025

### 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 Hughes

### PRAYING THE READINGS AT HOME

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: **Acts 12:1-11**

Psalm: **33(34):2-9**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: **2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**

Gospel: **Matthew 16:13-19.**

**Mass Setting:** Mass of the Celtic Saints  
**Children:** 767

**Entrance:** 606 See us Lord about your Altar...

**Psalm:** 33(34):2-9

*I called in my distress; God set me free. From ev'ry kind of fear God set me free.*

**Offertory:** 181 Bread is blest & broken  
**Communion:** 214 Come Lord Jesus come  
**Recessional:** 259 Follow me, follow me

Sunday Mass is at 10am.

You can follow Fr. Claro's daily international Masses from his home on Facebook Live here:

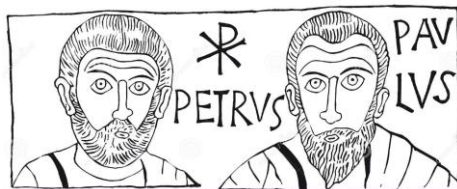
<https://facebook.com/claro.conde>

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.

## FEAST OF ST. PETER & ST PAUL – 29TH JUNE 2025



### DATES

**29th June Feast of St Peter & Paul**  
Baptism of Oliver Uche Clinton Gray  
grandchild of Graham & Catherine  
Carpenter

Baptism of Oliver Uche Clinton Gray of  
USA, grandchild of Graham & Catherine  
Carpenter of Faringdon

06 July 2025 Sunday 3pm Baptism of  
HENRY of Beckie & Huw James at  
Buckland

**13th July SEA SUNDAY.** We will have our  
Mass this Sunday at 9.30am. We join the  
United Service at the Market Square at  
1030am for FOLLYFEST SERVICE.

## JULY 11-13 FOLLY FEST

FollyFest is a relaxed, family friendly music and  
community arts festival held in Faringdon,  
Oxfordshire each year. FollyFest includes the  
usual ecumenical open air Sunday service on 13  
July at 10.30am in the Market Place. Rev. Maria  
Jukes will lead the service with other church  
leaders. [www.faringdonfollyfest.co.uk](http://www.faringdonfollyfest.co.uk)



### Faringdon Singers Summer Concert

Saturday 5th July, 7pm  
St Nicholas' Church, Fyfield  
Refreshments available after the concert.  
For more information contact [sarah.macevogue@bt.com](mailto:sarah.macevogue@bt.com) or  
go to [www.faringdonsingers.org.uk](http://www.faringdonsingers.org.uk)



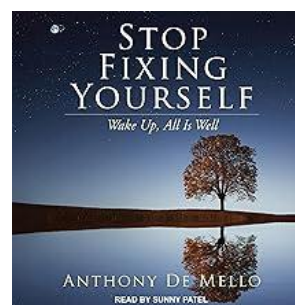
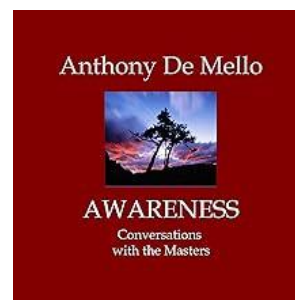
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### BOOKS TO READ

Jesuit Fr. Anthony de Mello has written books on  
classic spiritual exercises.

We were brainwashed by society into building our  
life on the unquestioned belief that without  
money, power, success, approval, romance, etc.,  
we cannot be happy. It's a false belief that has us  
constantly striving, constantly focused on what  
we don't have, constantly at the mercy of things  
and people as we try desperately to make life  
conform to society's formula for happiness, only  
to discover it offers nothing more in the way of a  
happy life than temporary respites from the fear  
of failing.

Awareness awakens you to the truth that you  
possess everything you need right now to be  
happy and fulfilled.



'Finding Beauty Behind Bars' by Revd Tim  
Hewes, is a diary he kept while on remand in  
prison for 6 weeks for conspiring to bring the  
M25 to a standstill with a climate action group.  
He explains the environmental catastrophe that  
led to this choice and the moments of beauty and  
humanity he encountered in prison.

**'Can God be in this place? It's beginning to seem  
so'**

Foreword by Gavin Collins, Bishop, Bishop of  
Dorchester.

Books for sale in the Mustard Seed.

Tim, a local retired dentist and priest, will be  
speaking to Faringdon Peace Group on **Weds,**  
**2nd July, 7.30 in the** Friends Meeting House,  
Lechlade Road. All welcome.

