



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 29TH

### North Downs Pastoral Area

#### Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

email: [conconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:conconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

## 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 29TH

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Numbers 11:25-29**

**Psalm: 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: James 5:1-6**

**Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48**

**“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...”.**

**Mark 9: 43-47**

Sometimes we need to wake up to the horror of sin. Sin and sin alone is capable of sending you to hell. Hell is real, and going there for eternity is a real possibility. Therefore, we must do whatever it takes to avoid that frightful possibility. This teaching from Jesus might not, at first, be thought of as one of His most inspiring teachings, but it should be. It's not inspiring in the sense that it is quite graphic. But it is very inspiring in the sense that it has the potential to motivate us to action.

**Are you motivated to do all that you can to avoid sin? Would you even go so far as to cut off your hand or foot, and to pluck out your eye so as to avoid sin?**

First of all, this should not be seen as a literal command in which Jesus is telling us to mutilate ourselves. But He is the one Who chose such graphic language. Therefore, we should not shy away from pondering these images in a prayerful way so as to more clearly see those things that lead us into sin. When we see them, we must take the radical step of completely eliminating them from our lives.

Many of the Church Fathers say that the hand, foot and eye in this teaching refer to our friends. Just as a hand, foot and eye are good in and of themselves, so also are friends. We are made for friendship with God and with others. However, not every friendship helps us grow closer to God. Therefore, when an earthly friend becomes a source of sin, we must eliminate that friendship.

Friendship is different from charity. We owe charity to all people, even those who are the most sinful. But acting with charity toward others is different from being friends with them. To be a friend implies mutual giving and receiving. And though we must always give of ourselves to others, we ought not always receive from them when what they have to offer is an invitation to sin. This is how we “cut it off” and “pluck it out.” When another person tries to relate to us in such a way that they lead us into sin, we must take that temptation very seriously and reject it with much vigor.

The hand, foot and eye in this teaching also represent every situation in life that tempts us to sin. For example, consider material possessions. If buying a very expensive car, house, or electronic gadget tempts you to become more materialistic, then you must avoid buying it. People are drawn to nice things. **But does possessing nice things help your soul to become holy?**

One could argue that they can have nice things, while at the same time remain spiritually detached from them. But this is difficult to live. The more luxurious our material possessions, the more tempted we will be to rely upon them for our happiness. Therefore, choosing to live simply is almost always better for your soul than choosing to live in luxury. This teaching also applies to anything else that could become a source of temptation.

Reflect, today, upon those things or persons in your life that have become an occasion of sin for you. Do not fool yourself into believing that you can handle the temptation. If you have some source of ongoing temptation in your life, you need to eliminate it. Ponder this very graphic teaching from Jesus and try to apply it to your life. Identify those things that lead you into sin and eliminate them with much determination.

**My radical Lord, You call all of Your children to a life of holiness and perfection.**

**Please help me to take Your teachings seriously so as to eliminate all occasions of sin from my life.**

**May I have the eyes to see these temptations and the courage to reject them with all my might.**

**Jesus, I trust in You.**

**26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 29TH**

**World Day of Migrants and Refugees.**

The 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated on 29th September 2024 - the last Sunday of the month. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'God walks with His people'. (Catholic Bishops of England & Wales.)

**“God not only walks with his people, but also within them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalized. In this, we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation.”**

In this light, migrants are not “those” other people, they are us and we are them.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIVFBfgesFw&t=6s>

**Creationtide Service on 29th September**

18.30 Faringdon Baptist Church, with refreshments from 18.00. See CTiF minutes of meeting

**We have a meeting for refugees and Asylum Seekers** on Monday at 4.00pm, on 23rd September at the parish hall. Please attend to raise your concern and plans

**Open Kitchen** this winter to open just once a month. This will be on the second Friday of the month. Dates are October 11th, November 8th, December 13th, (2025) January 10th, February 14th, March 14th

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

**Diocesan Formation Day for Readers** (from Director of Liturgical Formation) Fr Anthony Fyk, is running a formation day for readers on Saturday 19th October from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm. This will take place at St Bede’s Church/Hall in Basingstoke. We would be most grateful if you could advertise the training day in your parish and encourage readers to attend.

Registration to the email:  
[liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Bishop Philip Egan’s Letter

**Extra Ordinary Ministers Retreat**  
Fr. Dominic announces pastoral area Retreat/Formation Day for extra-ordinary ministers of the Eucharists. Sr Judith Rossi will animate the group 12th October, in Didcot, English Martyrs Church, 15 Manor Cres, Didcot OX11 7AJ, UK . Please contact the parish office:  
[office.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:office.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY at BOARS HILL in OXFORD.** See:  
<https://mailchi.mp/oxcacs/carmelite-connection-september-edition-13414906?e=35d59b227a>

**Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland  
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 29TH**

Prayer for the Renewal of our Diocese  
Please pray each day the following prayer for the spiritual renewal of all the members of our Diocese of Portsmouth, bishop, clergy, religious and people:

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you.  
Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese.  
Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people.  
Grant us a new passion and zeal for our Catholic Faith, for mission, outreach and service.  
Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church.  
May Mary Immaculate help us.  
May St Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us.

Amen

**World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation  
2024**

This is celebrated every 1st of September, and the Season of Creation extends from this date to 4th of October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. The message is entitled “Hope and Act with Creation”

**Pope:** Jesus' presence in Eucharist helps faithful be truly present for others.

Papal trips let Francis showcase a **'poor church for the poor'** "It's often when Francis is on the road that he's able to underscore the simplicity that he expects from church leaders," writes Christopher White, NCR's Vatican correspondent.

