

READINGS

Reading I: **Isaiah 55:1-3**

Psalm: **145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18**

Reading II: **Romans 8:35, 37-39**

Gospel: **Matthew 14:13-21**

*"Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."
Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he
ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.*

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and
looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke
the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who
in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and
were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments
left over—twelve wicker baskets full.

Matthew 14:17-20

In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, there are two
distinct miraculous feedings of large crowds. Today's
Gospel depicts the first one, given primarily to Jewish
people near the Sea of Galilee. Five thousand men (not
counting women and children) were fed from five
loaves and two fish, resulting in twelve baskets left over.
This feeding of the five thousand is notably the only
miracle of Jesus recorded in all four Gospels,
underscoring its significance. Matthew and Mark also
recount a second miraculous feeding - this time of four
thousand people - in the largely pagan region of the
Decapolis, using seven loaves and a few fish, with seven
baskets left over.

This first miracle takes place within the context of Jesus'
sorrowful heart, as He mourns the death of His cousin,
John the Baptist. Jesus knew that John's death occurred
for the Father's glory and according to His permissive
will. Yet this divine perspective did not eliminate His
human sorrow. Holy sorrow is a profound expression of
love in the face of suffering.

Because Jesus' love was perfect, His sorrow was genuine
and deep. The depth of His sorrow is evident from His
deliberate choice to withdraw by boat to be alone, to
fully embrace His grief. It is beautiful to note that Jesus'
divinity does not overshadow or diminish His humanity.
Rather, with divine love, He fully accepts John's death,
and with a genuinely human heart, He properly mourns.
In Jesus, humanity and divinity intertwine perfectly.

Upon disembarking, Jesus finds that a large crowd has
followed Him on foot, anticipating His arrival, hungry
for His teachings and miracles. Here we encounter a
second revelation of Jesus' divinity shining through His
humanity. Seeing the crowd and perceiving their
brokenness, sinfulness, and suffering, *"his heart was
moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick."* The
Greek word translated here as "pity" indicates a deeply
felt, visceral compassion. This compassion, divine in
origin, flows perfectly through Jesus' sacred humanity.
His compassionate gaze vividly reveals God's merciful
love: Jesus does not merely sympathize; He acts
decisively, healing the sick and alleviating their
suffering. His divine love compels Him to act for the
good of His people.

The miracle itself recalls God's providential care for the
Israelites during their forty years in the desert, when
manna appeared each morning, providing sufficient
food for each day. That miracle, coupled with today's
Gospel, teaches us a consistent truth: God always
provides for us when we turn to Him, seeking Him
earnestly as the crowd did.

The multiplication of the loaves and fish also
foreshadows the Eucharist, likely the reason it is
recorded in all four Gospels. In the Eucharist, God
provides abundantly for our spiritual nourishment.
When received with faith and trust in God's providence,
Jesus' Body and Blood nourishes every virtue within us,
empowering us to flourish spiritually. The Eucharist
prepares us for eternal life, where we anticipate sharing
in the eternal Wedding Banquet of Heaven - a perfect,
everlasting celebration free from all sin, sickness, and
suffering.

Reflect today on Jesus' tender care. He looks upon your
needs with the same compassion He showed to the
crowds in the wilderness. Consider especially how He
desires to feed you daily through the Most Holy
Eucharist, the true Bread from Heaven. Bring to Him
whatever you have, even if it seems small or insufficient
- your struggles, weariness, prayers, and hopes - and
trust that in His hands, they will be multiplied for the
good of your soul and the souls of others. Let this
miraculous feeding stir within you a deeper faith in
God's providence and a more fervent desire for the
Eucharist, where Christ Himself is our sustenance, our
healing, and our foretaste of eternal joy.

*My Eucharistic Lord, the Gift of the Eucharist is beyond
my comprehension.*

*Just as the crowds were amazed at the multiplication of
the loaves and fish, astonish me with an understanding
of the Eucharist and Your providential care that fills my
heart with openness and gratitude to You.*

Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2nd August 2026

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

email: cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Telephone: 01367 358895

Website: www.blessedhugh.org.uk

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 - Ann O'Reilly -

safeguarding.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Mass Setting: **Quiet Mass**

Entrance Antiphon

**O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.**

Psalm: 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

*The hand of the Lord feeds us; he
answers all our needs.*

Alleluia:

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.
One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from
the mouth of God.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Sunday Mass is at 10am.

The Mass is usually also streamed on
Facebook here:

<https://facebook.com/blessedhughfaringdonchurch/>

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

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

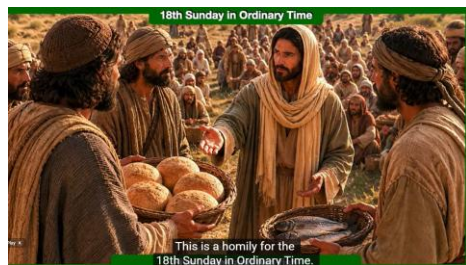
His current schedule (subject to change) is:
6.30 am Regular Daily Masses Monday to
Sunday.

Bible Study

We have a Bible Study, reflecting on the
coming Sunday Mass Readings, with Fr
Claro on Zoom on Mondays from 7.00pm.
To join please use the link on the Parish
website home page.

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2nd August 2026

YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOsPS3oEH9E>



The feeding of the five thousand occupies a unique place in the Gospel tradition. It is the only miracle of Jesus - apart from the resurrection itself - that is recorded in all four Gospels. Matthew's telling of the story has unmistakable echoes of the Exodus story. Today's second reading invites us to set the feeding of the multitude against the backdrop of Isaiah 55, where God adopts the language of the marketplace, inviting people to receive food and drink without payment. It's also worth noting that Matthew uses the same four Greek verbs - take, bless, break and give - that he will use in his account of the Last Supper, so this miracle anticipates that final meal that Jesus shares with his disciples, as well as the celebration that Christians will come to call the Eucharist.

TRAINING HOW TO USE THE SUNDAY MISSAL and how to be a good Reader at 930 Sunday, contact Dr. David Williamson of the Choir

PPC & Finance Meetings, see in the parish website

MONDAY BIBLE ZOOM time 7pm

YOUTH MEETING every other Friday, contact Helena Boakye 07455 993296

Dates for your diary

- 2nd August- encyclical club after Mass

RIP Fr Peter Turbitt's body will be received into St John Vianney Church on Thursday 20th August 2026 at 5pm. There will be a vigil Mass at 7pm. The Funeral, a Requiem Mass, will be held at 10am on Friday 21st August 2026 at English Martyrs, Didcot followed by burial in Chain Hill cemetery, Wantage. Following the burial, refreshments will be provided at St John Vianney, Wantage (please note that car parking is very limited at Wantage).

Reverend Canon Peter Turbitt 3rd December 1943 – 19th July 2026

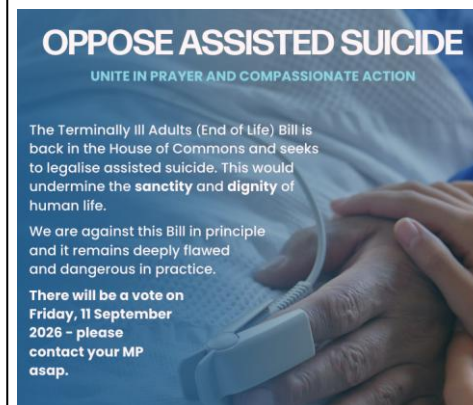
Canon Peter Turbitt was born in Blaydon-on-Tyne, Tyne and Wear. He was one of three siblings and his brother died a few years ago. He is survived by his sister Mary. Following formation at Ushaw, he was ordained to the priesthood on 10th March 1968 at St Joseph's, Blaydon, Durham by Bishop James Cunningham for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. He became incardinated into the Diocese of Portsmouth in 1974.

Canon Peter first served as an assistant priest at Sacred Heart, Fareham until 1976. From 1976 to 1980 he served as assistant priest at the Annunciation, Netley. Between 1980 and 1983, he was appointed parish priest for St Patrick's, Jersey. He was appointed as parish priest of St Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park between 1983 and 1989 before moving to St John Vianney, Wantage in 1989. Canon Peter was appointed Coordinating Pastor of the North Downs Pastoral Area in 2010 and Dean of the same in 2016. He was appointed parish priest of Sacred Heart, Lambourn and Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford, and of Blessed Hugh Faringdon, Buckland and Faringdon in 2015. He was invited to join the Chapter of Canons of the Diocese in 2001. He was also a member of the Council of Priests. Canon Peter Turbitt retired in 2019. Let us thank God for his loving service to the people whom he was called to serve. May the Lord grant him eternal rest in the love that he so generously served through his ministry.

STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOP Philip Egan about 'The Society of St. Pius X' (SSPX)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, It is with sorrow and a heavy heart that I write to you today. On 1st July, against the express directive of the Holy Father, and so without a papal mandate, four priests of the Society of St. Pius X, the SSPX, were ordained bishops at Écône in Switzerland. By this defiant act, the two consecrating bishops and the four new bishops incurred excommunication latae sententiae, the most serious penalty of all.

The SSPX and its members reject teachings of the Second Vatican Council and many of the developments since. With this ordination, they have formally broken away from the Church. Please pray for them and for all involved. In response, the Vatican has declared the ordinations a 'schismatic act.' Sadly, this means that all the bishops and priests who belong to the SSPX and the laypeople who exclusively attend their services are now excommunicated. The Masses they offer are illicit. Attendance at them does not fulfil the Sunday obligation. The sacraments they celebrate - of marriage and confession - are invalid.



Children's liturgy- summer pause

Children's liturgy is paused for the summer holidays but will resume in September. A reminder that once your child has done their First Holy Communion, they are encouraged to stay in the church and participate in the whole of the Mass. We understand that some children who have done their First Holy Communion are still keen to attend the Children's Liturgy. However, no child in secondary school (that is over the age of 11) will be permitted to attend Children's Liturgy. This prevents the catechists from having to cope with a very large spread in ages and encourages the older children to participate in the Liturgy of the Word.

We encourage children that have done their First Holy Communion to consider becoming altar servers.

CHANGE OF DATE: Encyclical Club!- now 2nd August

You have heard of a book club, well, we bring you the Blessed Hugh Faringdon encyclical club! We will read our way through notable encyclicals and meet after Mass to discuss them.

On Sunday 2nd August, we will meet in the hall after Mass to continue our discussion of *Rerum Novarum*, paragraphs 36-end. You can access the encyclical here:

https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html

Diocesan Liturgy Resources

Our diocese has many great liturgy resources, and they have created a website for these.

You can find it here:
<https://www.theliturgyproject.com/>

Mass and Confessions for Hong Kong Catholics in Oxfordshire

There will be a Saturday vigil mass celebrated in Cantonese by a visiting priest, Fr Robert Wong (SVD Taiwan), in English Martyrs Church Didcot, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ on Saturday 8th August at 4pm. Confession time (in Cantonese) starts at 3pm.

Tea and Refreshment will be served after mass. For registration and enquiries, please email to oxhkcaths@gmail.com, or contact Ada Chim in Didcot by 01235812338 or didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Car parking

A reminder that on Sundays, please leave the church car park for Fr Claro, and for elderly and infirm parishioners, to minimise the distance they have to walk. If you are able to walk from the Southampton Street car park, please park there (it is free on Sunday) and leave the limited spaces in the church car park for those who need them.