

Focusing the Gospel

Key words and phrases:

bear fruit, he prunes, because of the word, Remain in me.

To the point:

Bearing fruit—and even more fruit—requires pruning. The pruning tool of the Father-vine grower is the Son's word. Allowing this word to shape us brings forth a life-giving relationship with Jesus (likened to a branch that remains on a vine) that assures abundant and good fruit. Five times we are told to bear fruit. Eight times we are told to remain in Jesus. **How many times, then, must we be shaped by the word?**

To the First Reading:

The Second Reading makes very concrete how we remain in Jesus: by keeping his commandment of love in deed and truth.

To experience:

Every gardener knows the value and necessity of pruning. The hard work of cutting away what is dead, unwanted, or overgrown is rewarded by lushness of new growth.

1 John 3:18-24

God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. ...

We receive from him whatever we ask.

Needs come in droves
with their hands
stretched
out.
You
know
each need
better than we do.
You know that we lack
one thing only:
You,
our God.

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. For the Bible Study visit the website and click the link on the homepage.

PPC Update 22nd April Meeting.

Review of PPC role in the parish.

- It was established and agreed that the primary concern of the PPC is purely pastoral and should not deal with administrative matters. The role of PPC members is to represent the faithful community working in collaboration with Fr Claro to forward the mission of Christ

- We have a starting point with our parish mission, and we will develop that.

- It was decided that a starting point would be to ask parishioners what they would like to see happen for themselves and their families. We will start to gather this information both through a questionnaire and through Fr Claro visiting Catholic families in the area and chatting with them. It was agreed that Fr Claro would get one family in an area to host a house Mass and invite some other locals to have a Mass and have an informal discussion about their pastoral needs. He will start with Southmoor, Buckland and Gainfield.

- The possibility of starting a Parish Youth club and having some youth Masses was discussed.

- First Communion enrolment will begin in January 2022.

- It was decided that a social event should be planned for the Parish soon after 21st June when Covid restrictions are lifted.

- Tony said that having a selection of parishioners reading the bidding prayers within the body of the Church was very well received and it was decided that we would continue this practice.

- It was agreed that the contact details of the Parish Pastoral Council would be put on the Church notice board.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 2ND MAY 2021

North Downs Pastoral Area Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde
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Liturgies at the Cathedral

Bishop Philip will celebrate the following liturgies. They will be live streamed on the Cathedral website: www.portsmouth-catholiccathedral.org.uk
Saturday 09:00 Holy Mass
Sunday 12:00 Holy Mass (Cathedral)
Monday - Friday
07:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
08:10 Morning Prayer & Benediction
08:30 Holy Mass (Latin on Wednesday)



Ministries

Music Director: Sjoerd Vogt
Organist: Karen Vogt
SafeGuarding Officer: Mary Hughes
Children's Liturgy: Clare Cottingham
Parish Hall: Sue Cole (01367 241446)
Pastoral Assistant: Tony Fecher
Altar Servers: Denise Cocquerel
Gift Aid: Jack Thornton
Webmaster: Neill Taylor

Praying the Readings at Home

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

*It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.
(Gospel)*



Musto Wine Grape Co. LLC.

Masses at Blessed Hugh

Sunday Mass at Blessed Hugh is at 10am, it is essential to register in advance if you wish to attend. The Mass is also livestreamed on Zoom and Facebook so you can follow from home.

Details and registrations here:

<https://blessedhugh.org.uk/events-and-services/>

On Zoom, please keep your microphone muted except to offer Bidding Prayers.

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

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

His current schedule is:

8.00 am Regular Daily Masses Monday to Sunday.

6 pm Masses on Wednesdays (Our Mother of Perpetual Help), and Sundays



Message from Fr. Claro
2ND MAY 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

POPE FRANCIS

Before the Mass we will see and listen to Pope Francis's video message to this international online conference, in which Catholic parishioners, priests and theologians involved in community organising gathered to discuss his new book Let Us Dream.

His message, the keynote address from Austen Iverleigh and Patricia Gualinga, and the conference presentations - with testimony from grassroots leaders in Boston, Chicago, Cologne, Leeds, London, Los Angeles and Rome - are below.

Full Message of the Pope is found <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/04/15/210415e.html>

In the Gospel from John, Jesus speaks metaphorically to explain relationships: The Father is the vine grower, Jesus is the vine and the disciples are the branches. Jesus as the vine helps to link his followers with the Father. Moreover, it is the Father who cultivates the vine and enables the branches to bear fruit, discarding those that are not productive.

Just like the Good Shepherd Sunday, we will look into English / British Vineyard like the English Shepherding to understand and appreciate the Gospel better in the time of Jesus and today.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 2nd May is the 7th Anniversary of my husband Alan, CLARE COTTINGHAM

HOME MASSES

Last Thursday, the Parish Pastoral Council suggested that we have home Masses in the villages. We will start with the community in Southmoor. What Saturday are you available? It may just be 4 families (10 to 15 people). We will decide which place and date and time next week.

Ok everyone, the mass will be at Mary Poole's house on the 15th May at 5pm. Let's have a quick catchup after Mass on Sunday to discuss any further details. Thanks, Lorraine

Bothy Vineyard Faringdon Rd, Abingdon
OX13 6QW

<https://www.bothyvineyard.co.uk/>

Our philosophy at Bothy Vineyard is to produce the highest quality wines from grapes cultivated in as environmentally-friendly a way as possible. We continue an ancient tradition of wine making in the Vale of the White Horse, Oxfordshire. The local micro-climate, warm sandy soils, long ripening season and mature vines produce wines of consistent depth and quality which have won many awards.

The first reading narrates the disciples who spoke and lived boldly the Gospel values. They care for the sick and share in common their belongings so that nobody is in need.

In this world where we experience moral issues and crises. The 2nd Reading wants us to understand better our consciences. In making moral decisions we need to pray for discernment and appeal for our conscience in our choices of action.

The Gospel tells us of God as the vinedresser who cuts every branch that bears no fruit. He also prunes every branch that does bear fruit to make it bear even more.

Pope Francis wants us to cut branches that results poverty, injustice and structural as well as personal sins. We want us to speak and live boldly the Gospel values so we produce fruits of love, justice and fraternity.

How were the Masses the previous Sundays?

Great. You are a star! The shepherd was great and Regie (Norton) very interesting. I have a lot of question for him. I knew people in Nicaragua and central America when he was there. One was working undercover for the army and the other was working in the community health system that the Sandanistas were setting up there. It was considered a model. Alex K-B

We have been enjoying attending the masses! It has been a lovely experience so far especially with all that is going on in the world!

We have found each Mass very interesting! We have found the videos that are played are always very interesting especially the one played a few weeks ago about being more sustainable. We are looking forward to being able to come into Mass and introduce ourselves and Poppy – Jennifer

Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 2ND MAY 2021

I appreciate the sharing & the participation of those in the church & in the on-line... very encouraging... thank you for such creativity – D.S.

Dr. JP Crilly's talk on the Good Shepherd is available in the email list of the Newsletter. If you want a copy, please email me. cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LETTERS TO AND FRO THE PARISH PRIEST

NEW BIBLES

Dear Tony and Fr. Claro. Please see attached information about a range of new ESV Catholic bibles. If you think there will be any interest in them among the congregation, we will stock them in the Mustard Seed. Karen

Hi Karen. I'm forwarding this email regarding the ESV Catholic Bible a range of seven fully anglicized Catholic editions of the ESV, which will be the basis of the new Lectionary as announced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. These will published end May. Please have a look at the brochure. Do you think any members of your church would be interested in this? I will be looking at whether to get some copies but it would be helpful to know if there might be any interest. Malcolm

RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Dear Fr Claro Conde, Earlier this year, the Northern Ireland Assembly voted on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill and it passed Second Stage by 48 votes to 12.

The Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill will remove the current grounds in the Northern Ireland abortion regulations that were imposed on Northern Ireland that allow abortion for 'severe fetal impairment'. Under these grounds in the regulations, babies with disabilities including Down's syndrome, cleft lip and club foot can currently be singled out for abortion in Northern Ireland because of their disability and can be aborted right up to birth.

The Northern Ireland Health Committee is now undertaking a consultation on the Bill and is seeking submissions from the public. It is important that as many people as possible submit to the consultation in support of the Bill to clearly show that there is widespread support for this important change. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. This tool can be accessed here. Would you be able to help us get the word out about the consultation by putting the notice below in your print / online church newsletter?
<https://righttolife.org.uk/midisabilityconsultation>

40 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Dear Fr. Claro, I remembered you at Mass today: congratulations on this magnificent occasion and may you be given many more years in the service of the Lord. "Ad multos annos" Et oremus pro invicem! Fr David Quarmby.

Fr. Claro, Congratulations on your 40 years of priesthood, Fr. Patrick Tansey (via phone)) Fr. Claro, With Prayers and Good Wishes on the Anniversary of your Ordination – 40 years- Bishop Philip.

Thank you so much for your prayers, greetings, cards and gifts on my Ruby Sacerdotal Anniversary. Hope we can celebrate thanksgiving Mass after the lockdown.