

READINGS

Reading I: **Isaiah 5:1-7**

Psalm: **79(80):9,12-16,19-20**

Reading II: **Philippians 4:6-9**

Gospel: **Matthew 21:33-43**

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Matthew 21:42-43

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants is rich in Old Testament imagery. The image of the vineyard comes from the Prophet Isaiah (**Isaiah 5:1-7**) and represents the people of Israel. The landowner is God, who, from the time of Abraham, has lovingly and intentionally cultivated His people. The hedge, tower, and winepress symbolize God's providential care, protection, and the structure He established for their spiritual growth, respectively.

The tenants are the religious elite of Israel who were entrusted with guiding the people in holiness. The servants sent by the landowner are the prophets - faithful messengers consistently rejected and mistreated. Finally, the son is Jesus Himself, sent by the Father as the culmination of His divine outreach.

The parable ends in tragedy with the son's murder. Yet from that tragedy arises a new beginning: "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit" (**Matthew 21:43**). Though Jesus was addressing the religious leaders of His time - the scribes, Pharisees, chief priests, Sadducees, and elders - His enduring promise of a new beginning speaks to us today.

We are invited to be part of the people to whom God now entrusts His vineyard, the Church. Today, the hedge, winepress, and tower represent the Sacraments, the teaching authority of the Church, Sacred Scripture, and the communion of the faithful. God continues to cultivate His vineyard with great care, expecting it to bear fruit through our lives of holiness, fidelity, charity, and truth. Each of us, as members of the Body of Christ, is called to receive this trust with gratitude and to labour diligently for the Kingdom, never forgetting the price paid by the Son who was cast out and killed for our redemption.

Sometimes, when we speak of "the Church," we do so as if it were some distant institution. Our minds may turn immediately to the Vatican, the pope, or the local bishop. While these shepherds hold crucial and foundational roles within the vineyard, we need to understand the Church in a more encompassing way.

To use the image from today's parable, the vineyard and the fruit it is meant to bear are not equated exclusively with the tenants, the servants, the son, or even the landowner. The vineyard itself represents the entire people of God. The fruit it produces is the grace-filled witness of lives transformed by faith. This includes all of us: clergy, religious, and laity alike. Every member of the Church is a labourer in the vineyard, called to work together, under the guidance of Christ, the true Son, and to offer to the Father a rich harvest of justice, mercy, and truth.

Reflect today on how to make this parable your personal calling. The Kingdom of God has been partly entrusted to you to be one who will labour for the salvation of souls - "people that will produce its fruit." The work of evangelization is an ongoing and urgent mission.

In what ways is God calling you to work in His Divine Vineyard?

Is it through faithful prayer, by which the vines of grace are pruned and nourished?

Is it through the work of harvesting, where you draw others to Christ by your words, your witness, and your works of love?

Is it through quiet perseverance in suffering, offered in union with the Crucified One?

However God calls you, do not delay. Receive His trust with humility and labour with joy. The vineyard is His, but the fruit depends, in part, on you.

My glorious King, You have called us to Yourself and made us members of Your Kingdom. You have also sent us forth to labor in the vineyard of Your Church and help draw many souls to Your Sacred Heart. Please reveal to me the role and mission You have entrusted to me. May I listen attentively to Your gentle commands and respond with a heart full of generosity and faith. May Your Church—of which I am a living member—continue to bear abundant fruit through the grace You pour forth. Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday October 4th 2026

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

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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: Mass in Honor of Pope Paul VI with Irish Alleluia (36)

Children: 804 Isn't it good

Entrance: 638 Take me, Lord

Psalm: 79(80):9,12-16,19-20

The people of God are the vineyard, the vineyard of the Lord

Offertory: 439 Longing for light (Christ be our light)

Communion: 862 Bless the Lord, my soul

Recessional: 782 Each of us is a living stone

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.

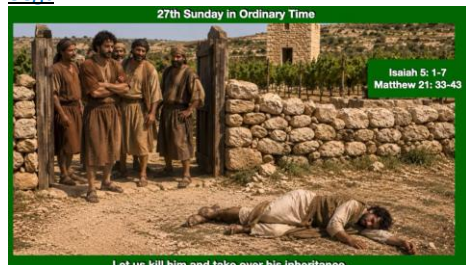
Bible Study

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.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday October 4th 2026

YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByWR4V-8egc>



Today's parable of the tenants is a devastating indictment of the chief priests and elders. Like the son in last Sunday's Gospel who politely promised obedience but never acted, they have failed to do the Father's will. But Jesus now goes further. They are not merely negligent leaders; they have become faithless stewards. The vineyard belongs to God, yet they behave as though it belongs to them. They reject God's prophets, they reject God's Son, and they are prepared to silence anyone who threatens their authority.

OCTOBER

Welcome to Fr. Andrew Burnham who will preside the Mass this Sunday.

1-5 October, **PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA, PORTUGAL** with Fr. Claro & some parishioners. Please Email me your intentions for the intercessions of Our Lady of Fatima
7 October, **Feast of the Holy Rosary** 5:30pm Rosary followed by Mass at formerly Catholic church now a private Church St George's Road, Buckland, SN7 8QX
18th October **World Mission Sunday**. Pray with the Global Church
World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Why is World Mission Sunday so important? Missio is responsible for coordinating World Mission Sunday and provides new, young or poor dioceses with the essential support they need on their journey to becoming self-sufficient. We work through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justly on the basis of need. The money goes directly from England and Wales to the bishops in the mission territories – local Church directly helping local Church!

Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses, and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

PPC & Finance Meetings, see in the parish website

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS. There are changes on requirements of DBS checks. Please contact Ann O'Reilly to check if your VOLUNTARY ministry needs DBS checks and Safeguarding Training. EMAIL Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon - Safeguarding safeguarding.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ATTENTION SUNDAY TEA & COFFEE VOLUNTEERS. Be sure to announce and label food to indicate presence of nuts to avoid those with such food allergies.

MONDAY BIBLE ZOOM time 7pm
YOUTH MEETING every other Friday, contact Helena Boakye 07455 993296

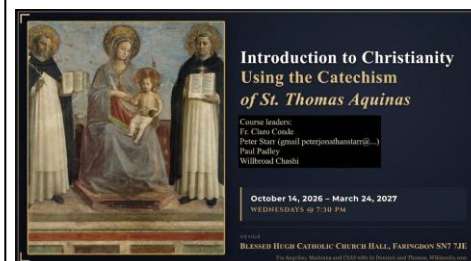
In October, Blessed Hugh Faringdon will the Leadership of the **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARINGDON (CTIF)**. Andrew Chell has accepted the chairmanship. We are still looking for a secretary. On 18th October Sunday 630pm, we will host the AGM (Annual General Meeting) at the Parish Hall. We need volunteers

The RCIA Class 2026 group has presented an Idea of a Parish Rosary Prayers. Those interested, please contact Peter Starr and Wilbrod Chasi. The 7th of October is the Feast of the Holy Rosary, and the Month of October is Rosary Month. You can pray the Holy Rosary individually, at home or at church.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E-NEWS

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue54>

8



Diocesan Catechist Day – Portsmouth Diocese
Saturday 10 October 9:30am–1:30pm
St Bede's, Basingstoke

Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish?

Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to **form missionary disciples**. Inspired by Jesus' words,

"Go therefore and make disciples..."
(Matthew 28:19),

we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend.

To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh>

Evening talk. 23rd October

Our series of evening talks, with theme of "Christianity and...." continues by looking at Christianity and sport, through the lens of the native sports of Ireland and Scotland, hurling and shinty.

Join us on Friday 23rd October, at 7.45 p.m. in the hall for:

"The Cross and the Caman: the entangled history of hurling, shinty and the Church"

with JP Crilly

Our story will take us from a monastic mission launched due to a hurling foul, to how one clergyman is trying to use compromise rules shinty-hurling games to overcome centuries of sectarian animosities in Belfast. Over almost 1600 years clergy, religious, and pious laity have shaped the story of these sports- from playing, coaching and setting up clubs and organisations to banning altogether.

As always there will be fish and chips (£15 per person) in the hall at 7.00 p.m. prior to the talk. Please email pbhf.bucklandandfaringdon@gmail.com with your order by 15th October.

RCIA course

Our introductory course to Christianity in general, and Catholicism in particular, using the Catechism of St Thomas Aquinas (one of the greatest theologians and philosophers), begins on 14th October.

While the course is ideal for those who are not Catholic and wish to learn more about the Church, or those preparing for baptism as an adult, it is also very informative for all Catholics too.

Please consider sharing it with anyone you think might be interested. You can find more details here: <https://blessedhugh.org.uk/docs/RCIA26-27.pdf>