

## 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

Psalms: 97(98):1-4

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

*“I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”*

John 15:15–17

Just prior to the passage quoted above, Jesus says, *“You are my friends if you do what I command you.”* **Is that the measure of true friendship? That we do what our friend commands us to do?** That depends upon which friend we are speaking about.

There are many images we use for God. We call Him Father, Saviour, Master, Lord, King, Redeemer, Spirit and Friend. When it comes to God as our divine Friend, it is important to understand the nature of that friendship properly. Jesus’ friendship is not one that simply makes us “buddies.” Friendship with our Lord is not the same as a friendship between two equals. He is God. And because He is God, our friendship with Him takes on unique characteristics that are not present in other friendships. With that said, there could be no greater friend than the Lord Himself.

Among humans, our friendships have various foundations. It could be that two people have mutual interests and they enjoy engaging in those interests together. It could be that two people have spent much pleasant time together since childhood. Or it could be that two people have endured some difficulty together and that experience has bonded them together. But according to Saint Thomas Aquinas, friendship in its purest form is based on just one thing: mutual charity.

Charity is the form of love that is purely selfless. It’s a way of relating to another in which a person’s sole focus is the good of the other. It is not based on one’s own self interests. It’s not a matter of “what do I get out of it?” In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, St. Paul defines the love of charity this way: *“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices*

*with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”* This is not only the definition of charity, but also the only foundation for true friendship.

When you consider all these qualities of charity, you will find that God relates to us in each of these ways. For that reason, God offers us the purest friendship possible. Whether or not we reciprocate these qualities to God will determine the depth of the bond of friendship that we establish with Him. But there is more. When we love God, we must love Him in a way that is proper and proportionate to Who God is. For example, if we offer charity to God, we seek to fulfill only God’s interests and rejoice in the Truth of Who He is. Thus, the charity we offer to God comes in the form of worship. He is God and is worthy of worship, adoration, surrender, trust and perfect obedience. When it is God we are loving, the very essence of the Person we love requires these responses.

One beautiful and consoling thing to recognize with this form of charity given to God is that it also establishes a true friendship with God. When we offer our worship to God, we are in a position to receive the very life of God in return. And the giving of ourselves, coupled with the reception of the life of God, establishes a bond of holy friendship that will transform us, unite us with Him and fulfill us to perfection. Friendship with God makes us one with Him and opens us to receive everything that He shares with us—namely, His very Self.

Reflect, today, upon the invitation Jesus has offered you to enter into a true friendship with Him. This means that God becomes the center of your life. It means that you seek to give yourself, selflessly and without reserve, to Him Who is deserving of all your love. It means you choose worship and obedience to perfection. The reward of such love is that you are able to enter into a bond that is so holy, so pure and so fulfilling that it completes you, enabling you to become who you were meant to be.

**My God and true Friend, You offer me everything in life.**

**You offer me Your perfect love, given fully and without reserve.**

**I pray that I will reciprocate that depth of love and offer to You all that You deserve.**

**I offer You my love, worship and obedience, dear Lord.**

**May this mutual love form a bond that will never end.**

**Jesus, I trust in You.**



## Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland

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### North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde

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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

**Adult Catechesis (RCIA)** - Mrs. Ann Bennell & Team (incoming Parish Safeguarding Officer)

**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

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Psalms: 97(98):1-4

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Mass Setting: Pope Paul VI

Children: 783

Entrance: 133 A New Commandment

Psalms: 97(98):1-4

*You are my praise when your people gather; when your people gather you will be my praise.*

Offertory: 434 Like the murmur of the dove’s song

Communion: 681 This is my Body  
Recessional: 289 God is Love

### Masses at Blessed Hugh

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.

## 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

Today, the Orthodox Christians are celebrating EASTER SUNDAY. Our parish is blest with Catholics married to Orthodox Christians and they come to the church.

What caused Orthodox Christianity?

On July 16, 1054, Patriarch of Constantinople Michael Cerularius separated from Rome, starting the "Great Schism" that created the two largest denominations in Christianity—the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox faiths.

Pope Francis to Catholic-Oriental Orthodox communion: Pray and work for communion. He highlights the dialogue of charity, truth, and life in his address to the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

### MAY

9th MAY THURSDAY, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Solemnity, Thursday, church to go for Mass.

1) 10am St. John Vianney, Charlton Rd, Wantage OX12 8ER.

2) 9am & 7pm in Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon, 1 Radley Rd, Abingdon, OX14 3PL

19th MAY PENTECOST SUNDAY 10am Mass and Parish Lunch afterwards. Bring food to share.

31ST MAY FRIDAY, VISITATION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**Pentecost Retreat - 7th-18th May.**

The Carmelite Priory at Boar's Hill are offering an online retreat entitled "Unwrapping the Fruits of the Holy Spirit". More information at [www.carmelite.uk.net/online-talks-retreats/pentecostretreat-2024/](http://www.carmelite.uk.net/online-talks-retreats/pentecostretreat-2024/)

7th -14th MAY, Pilgrimage to POLAND – Fr Claro Conde Chaplin

Those who want to have confessions, or Home Visit please email Fr. Claro at [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Take note that we have an office email, [office.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:office.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for inquiries about baptism, first holy communion, confirmation, marriage and other parish matters.

**CONFIRMATION DATE:** Saturday 11th of May at St John Cathedral in Portsmouth.

We pray for VIKTORIA DUDZIK, the parish's only confirmation candidate.

**First Holy Communion:** Feast of Corpus Christi Sunday 2nd of June 2024

**ATTENTION GIFT AIDERS.** The Charity number of the Diocese has changed, you need to fill up an updated form to claim for Gift Aid from the HRMC. See Nerisa in the church to get and submit the forms.

**PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND:** Pilgrimage to Poland & the Divine Mercy, 7th - 14th May 2024, Chaplain to the group: Fr. Claro Conde. Contact 01793 881166/ 020 3720 0450, [info@allsaintstravel.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintstravel.co.uk)

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** 18th - 21st Jun 2024 contact ALL Saints Travel Contact 01793 881166/ 020 3720 0450, [info@allsaintstravel.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintstravel.co.uk)

### BOOKS TO READ:

**THE ENNEAGRAM**, A Christian Perspective by Richard Rohr and Andreas Ebert. The Enneagram is a model of human psychology and personality theory, that is based on the idea that each person has a unique and innate personality structure, or "essence," that shapes the way they see the world and themselves.

The word "*Enneagram*" comes from the Greek words "ennea" meaning "nine" and "grammos" meaning "something written" or "a figure". The Enneagram symbol is composed of a circle with nine equidistant points, each representing one of the nine personality types. Its origin has an ancient history.

**PAUL CLAUDEL**, Poet of the Sacred Cosmos and Prophet of a Christian Ecology by Michael Donley (a parishioner)

**St. Mary Magdalen in Provence** by Michael Donley (a parishioner)



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#### PENTECOST - 19th MAY

Pentecost is the 19th May, and is one of the major feasts of the church. Fittingly, we wish to have a shared lunch after Mass, however to make this work we need YOUR help.

We need people to:

- help set up the hall before Mass
- help clear up after the lunch
- bring food to share (please, no nuts, due to the allergy risk)

If you can help in any (or all) of these ways, please let a member of the PPC know, or email [ppc@blessedhugh.org.uk](mailto:ppc@blessedhugh.org.uk). Thank you.

#### The Liturgy Project: Formation Days

The Diocese's Liturgical Formation Team will be hosting the following Formation Days at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX:

**A Day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** Saturday 4th May 2024 9:30am – 2:30pm

**A Day for Readers:** Saturday 19th October 2024 9:30am – 2:30pm

Please RSVP to [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

#### Blessed Hugh Young Families group

After Mass on 5th May the Young Families group are going to take a stroll up Folly Hill (and have a picnic if the weather is nice).

If you have children aged 5 or under, please join us.

#### EVENING TALK- MARY IN ISLAM

Friday 17th May, 7.45 p.m.

Many non-Muslims are surprised to hear about the level of respect that Muslims have for Mary (Maryam in Arabic). Did you know, for example, that Mary is the only woman named in the Quran and is mentioned over 70 times?

Please join us in the church hall, to hear more about the Islamic traditions regarding Mary from our own Dr Peter Starr.

#### Christian Aid Songs of Praise Service

All Saints Church

Sunday 5th May, 6.30pm

Free entry with retiring collection for Christian Aid Ecumenical service for all the Faringdon churches - please come and show your support

#### Christian Aid week 12th - 18th May. Theme 'Push back against Poverty'

Envelopes will be available at Mass on 12th May Online donations from 1st May via link on All Saints website <https://www.allsaintsfaringdon.org/>

