

**19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
AUGUST 7TH 2022**

**Focusing the Gospel**

**Key words and phrases:**

Father is pleased to give you, inexhaustible treasure, there also will your heart be, servant ... doing so.

**To the point:**

What, really, does the Father give us? What is the treasure that is to claim our hearts? The *“inexhaustible treasure in heaven”* the Father gives us is the Son (the Master). Our hearts must lie with the Son, for he is our Treasure. Those servants who are formed by this Treasure abide by the Son's expectations and seek to carry them out. Faithful servants do as the Son would do—their actions follow their heart.

**Connecting the Gospel ...**

**... to the First Reading:**

The *“holy children of the good”* were putting God's plan into effect just as the *“faithful and prudent steward”* in the Gospel was putting into effect the Master's will.

**... to experience:**

There are many treasures found in this life, for example, family, home, community, friendship, integrity. Good as these are, they are nonetheless exhaustible. **What the Father offers us is an inexhaustible Treasure: the fullness of the Life of the risen Lord.**

**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.

**August – Quiet Month**

'As usual we will have a quiet month in the church in August, so there will be no fairtrade stall on the 7th. But you can save all your pennies for a bumper stall on Sept 4th! If you need anything in the meantime, please remember the Mustard Seed shop is open Monday to Saturday 9 - 1.'

**THE GOSPEL  
Luke 12:32-48 or 35-40**

*Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.*

Lord,  
you tell us to  
be vigilant and watch for your  
coming.

Help us  
find you in the Eucharist,  
help us find you in those we love,  
in strangers we meet, in the poor and  
needy.  
Let us find you in our sleep, in our work  
and in our play,  
watch for you in our laughter and in our  
tears,  
in the deep souls of everyone we meet  
every day in the dusk and  
in the dark of  
night.

And give us courage  
to stand against  
sins that  
harm  
all  
that  
you love.

Please don't knock.  
Just come  
right  
in.



**Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland  
19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 7TH 2022**

**North Downs Pastoral Area**

**Diocese of Portsmouth**  
Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde  
email: [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01367 358895  
Website: [www.blessedhugh.org.uk](http://www.blessedhugh.org.uk)  
1 Coxwell Road, Faringdon, SN7 7EB  
Parish email:

**Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland**



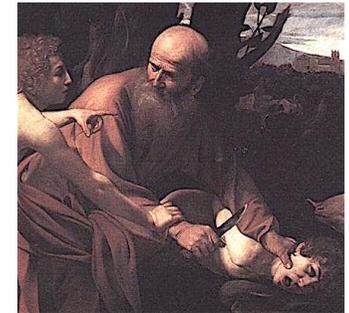
**Ministries**

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  
Sunday August 7th 2022**

**1st Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9**  
**Psalm: 32(33):1, 12, 18-20, 22**  
**2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19**  
**Gospel: Luke 12:32-48**

*By faith Abraham, when put to the test, was ready to offer his only son (Second Reading)*



**Caravaggio  
The Sacrifice of Isaac**

**Masses at Blessed Hugh**

Sunday Mass is at 10am.  
Masses are no longer livestreamed on Zoom.  
You can follow Fr. Claro's daily Masses from his home on Facebook Live here: <https://facebook.com/claro.conde>  
You can follow Fr. Claro's international Masses from his home on Facebook Live here: [facebook.com/claro.conde](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).

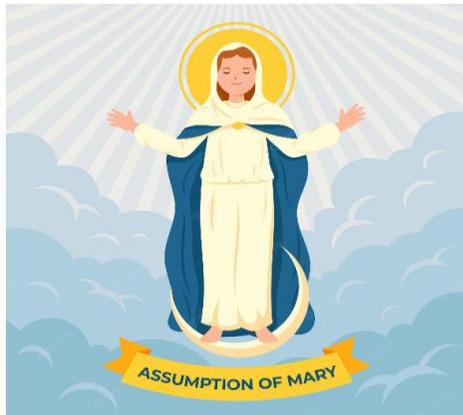
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**Sunday Readings Commentary by Fr.  
Greg Friedman OFM**

<https://bible.usccb.org/pod-casts/video/2022-08-07-reflection-117>

**EVENTS & MEETINGS**

**Feast of the Assumption**, Monday 15th August, 5.30pm Rosary, followed by Holy Mass at St. George (former Catholic church) in Buckland SN7 8QW



**PRAYERS AND CONCERT & ARTS for  
PEACE IN UKRAINE in BUCKLAND, OXFORDSHIRE**

5.30pm SUNDAY 21st AUGUST 2022, ST. GEORGE (former Catholic Church) SN7 8QW

**Bishop Philip Egan invites you for an  
ETHNIC Mass in honour of San Lorenzo Ruiz** (1st Filipino-Chinese Saint) on Saturday 10th of September 2022 at St. John Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3HQ. 1.30pm Procession then Mass

Contact: Filipino Deacon KIM CABATANA @ fb Dcn Kim Cee email, [Cabatana@gmail.com](mailto:Cabatana@gmail.com) or Fr. Claro Conde @ fb Claro Conde, email [filipinochaplaincy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:filipinochaplaincy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE** led by Fr. Claro Conde. 20-27 NOVEMBER 2022 See website <https://www.all-saintstravel.co.uk/HL0724>

**PLEASE READ & MAKE COMMENTS ON BISHOP PHILIP'S 10 YEAR MISSION PLAN FOR THE DIOCESE** as sent to you by email. <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/our-mission/planning/ten-year-plan/> Bishop Philip asks us to discuss his 10-year plan and submit to him comments on the FEEDBACK format. Please send comments to me. Kathy Thomas is kind enough to volunteer collate them.

Designating 24, newly defined, pastoral areas from our existing 87 parishes. These areas will work together to form single parishes over the next 3 to 5 years. The approach will be locally led, with central support.

We will be one parish with Abingdon; Didcot & Wallingford; East Hendred; Hinksey; Wantage & Lambourn

Write or Email me your IDEAS & COMMENTS [cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Comments**

Dear Fr Claro,  
Thank you for distributing the Diocese's document which proposes that our parishes be merged and grouped into fewer but much larger pastoral areas. Having lived most of my life in the Thames Valley (60 out of 73 years) I cannot see how this can work well.

A classic definition of 'church' is 'the community at prayer'. But how can the people of a 'mega-parish' 25 miles wide be considered, and feel to be, a community?



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Parish mergers can work well in urban areas, where distances are short, public transport good and people's lives have much in common. For example, most parishioners of St Joseph's in Tilehurst live only a mile or two from the church of the English Martyrs in West Reading, which is only a mile or so from St James's in central Reading.

But in rural areas the locations of Catholic churches are typically about 10 to 15 miles apart. In the last twenty years our parish has, at various times and in various ways, been linked with Wantage, Shrivensham/Watchfield, Lambourn and Hungerford. For the most part, these links were not successful – certainly not strong enough to constitute a feeling of community. Most of our parishioners have few, if any, strong links with these places, apart from Wantage. And even the parish's links with Wantage have been minimal.

Mergers of rural parishes are common in the Church of England. They work quite well but that is for two reasons. First, Anglican parishes are geographically much smaller and closer to each other. (A single rural Catholic parish can often cover as much ground as a dozen Anglican parishes.) Second, they make considerable use of non-stipendiary (i.e. unpaid) clergy, often married male retirees. It's a shame that the Catholic church does not do the same.

At least our pastoral area will no longer have the ridiculous name North Downs, bearing in mind that the North Downs are in Surrey and Kent. Oh, and it would be nice if the Diocese could consistently spell Faringdon and Didcot correctly. (Farringdon is in London and Dicot is a type of plant.)

All the best,  
Tony Hadland  
Oxfordshire, England  
[hadland.wordpress.com](http://hadland.wordpress.com)

**Rural versus urban parish areas**

The proposal that, in 10 years, Didcot will be the home of the only priest in Area X is impractical. Parishes at the western end (Faringdon) of the new pastoral Area X are too far away. People are being asked to travel too far. Similarly it is too far to expect a priest to drive to say a second Sunday mass on a regular basis. See the attached table of travelling times. Wantage might be a compromise but even then such an arrangement is asking too much of the priest if he is also asked to say Sunday mass at several distributed parishes, as might work in a city. It would be good if Area X were divided into eastern and western sub areas, each with a priest but I accept this is open to the criticism that we are claiming more than our fair share of priests.

**Parish Community and Communion**

If the scope of Area X is a done deal we have to accept then I feel the most important thing to protect is our local community, to have somewhere to meet and celebrate. If Blessed Hugh is financially able to support our building then we should keep it. Sunday Mass would be replaced by Communion with consecrated hosts. This can be lead by a Eucharistic Minister or a Deacon. There is no reason why activities like catechesis, charity work, preparation could not continue as now with the laity doing the work.

**Deacons**

If the Church is going to have fewer priests could more parishes not be run by a Deacon. It ought to be possible to recruit more Deacons in the next 10 years, younger married men with families. Baptisms could continue as normal. Weddings and funeral masses could happen on other days of the week than Sunday, so a priest could come. If we can't have a priest can we have a Deacon?

**Christmas, Easter, Holy Days of Obligation**

We would probably have to travel to Didcot or for these masses, but that might not be such a bad thing. Perhaps we could organise a parish mini bus? Maybe Christmas and Easter are occasions when the one priest does drive to say masses at Didcot, Wantage, Abingdon for example.

Paul Padley