

CHRIST THE KING & ST. COLMAN (Bitterne) OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION (Hedge End) ST. BRIGID (West End)

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Registered Charity number 1199568

Parish Priest: Fr. Elijah Fru Nde (emergency use phone number 0777 466 7010)

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4th Sunday of Advent: Year B, Cycle II

24th December 2023

Today, Christ has Truly Been Born!

Today is Christmas Day, the day we have long-awaited. Christmas is a milestone in the history of our salvation. So, it is lovely to know that God is with us. The central message of today's celebration is the Nativity of our Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have every reason to be happy because the prince of peace is born.

Our first reading from Isaiah finds its sphere of accomplishment in the birth, ministry, and life of Christ. Isaiah proclaims: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one who brings the Good News." Indeed, the good news himself is among us. The task now lies on us to spread it. It is the good news of love, peace, hope, happiness, and salvation. Therefore, all who have waited faithfully, patiently, and vigilantly must shout for joy because God is with us. Hence, Isaiah calls us to celebrate Emmanuel, God with us. It is a call to adore and worship the new-born king. It is a call to be joyful and to spread the good news.

In our second reading, the letter to the Hebrews captures and presents what God did for us today in a spectacular manner. "God Spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, but in our own time...he has spoken to us through the son...He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature..." The letter to the Hebrews simply means that God has fulfilled the promise he made by revealing the hidden mystery of salvation to us.

Today, revelation has reached its climax. The hidden mystery of the old covenant has been

revealed in the Word made flesh. Therefore, we need no further revelation because God himself has revealed himself fully in Christ, the radiant light of the father's glory.

The gospel of John concisely gives us the synopsis of what happened today, the divine incarnation of God: "The Word was with God...The Word was made flesh, He lived among us, and we saw His glory." Today, God the Son has revealed God the Father. The Word that was with the Father as Spirit is now with us both as flesh, as well as spirit. What we celebrate today is love because: "...God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son (Jn. 3: 16). We must be ready to share this love. God sent Christ out of love. Christ accepted to come to us because of his love for us. Also, Mary and Joseph cooperated with God to bring Christ into the world due to their love for humanity.

Today, we celebrate sacrifice. So, we, too, must be ready to sacrifice something for the good of our brothers and sisters as Christ did by leaving his heavenly throne to be with us. Today, we celebrate humility. We must learn humility from Christ, who, though was rich, became poor for our sake. Yes, he was born in the lowliest place, the manger.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2024

Fr Elijah

4th Sunday of Advent – 24th December 2023

9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)

11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Francis Bernard and Catherine Anne Murphy

5.30pm **NO MASS at St. Brigid** (West End)

Christmas Eve (Sunday, 24th December)

7.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
7pm Carols followed by Mass at 7.30pm

10.00pm **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
10pm Carols followed by Mass at 10.30pm

Entrance Antiphon

Is 45: 8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

Communion Antiphon

Is 7: 14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Day (Monday, 25th December)

9.00am **St. Brigid** (West End)
9am Carols followed by Mass at 9:15am

9.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Morning Mass - Margaret Mary & Charles James Miller

Christmas Mass Times in Woolston & Netley

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Family Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston

8.00pm Vigil Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston

Christmas Day

10.00am Mass - Annunciation Church, Netley

11.00am Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston

Weekday Mass Times (26th Dec – 30th Dec)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

CKSC – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 26th 10.00am **OLA**

Wed 27th 10.00am **SB**

Thu 28th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Fri 29th 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*

Sat 30th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tues – Fri)

Sacrament of Confession is available on request

We are all encouraged to offer Mass Intentions for our families and friends (contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

Sunday 31st December 2023

9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)

11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Thanking God for good health and requesting blessings on herself and family Linda & Richard Amungwa

5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End) *For the wellbeing and intentions of Paula Walford*

6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (1st Jan – 7th Jan)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

CKSC – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Mon 1st 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Tue 2nd 10.00am **OLA**

Wed 3rd 10.00am **SB** *For the People*

Thu 4th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the People*

Fri 5th 10.00am **OLA**

Sat 6th 10.00am **CKSC** *For Olive Ashley RIP*

Sun 7th **Epiphany of the Lord**

9.15am **OLA**

11.00am **CKSC**

5.30pm **SB**

6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

Epiphany of the Lord

Kindly note that the Epiphany of the Lord is being celebrated on Sunday 7th January as this year the solemnity is transferred from the Saturday to the Sunday.

Continuing Support of the Church

Please consider setting up a **standing order**.

For Christ the King & St Colman:

Account Name: CDP Christ the King & St Colman

Sort code: 30-93-04

Account Number: 00887553

For Our Lady of the Assumption and St Brigid:

Account Name: CDP Hedge End Our Lady

Sort code: 30-93-04

Account Number: 00879747

Please use your surname as a reference.

Make out cheques for Fr Elijah to Rev Fru N Elijah

Thank you for your support.

Parish office closed from Christmas to New Year

Please note, the parish office will be closed from Friday 22nd Dec 2023 to Wednesday 3rd Jan 2024.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

CKSC – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Recurring Events

Our Lady of The Assumption (Hedge End)

- **Tea Coffee, Biscuits, Friendly Chat** (and often cake) in the hall every Sunday after Holy Mass
- **Children's Liturgy** during Mass every 3rd Sunday of the Month (except in July/August)
- **Carers Group** on third Wednesday of every Month from 7.00pm to 8.30pm
- **Growing in Faith** every Tuesday evening 7:30-9pm
- **Table Tennis** every Tuesday from 9.30am to 12pm
- **Open Church** Thursday from 11am to 1pm (OLA)

Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

- **Prayer Group** every Thursday 10.30am-12 noon
- **Children's Liturgy** for 4 to 7-year-olds every Sunday
- **Faith on Fire** 8-9pm last Wednesday of every month – except December
- **Young Meetings** 12:30 -14:00 -2nd and 4th Sundays of every month
- **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & friendly chat** in the hall every 1st Sunday of the month

If you would like a future event to be included in the Calendar of Events, kindly advise the Parish office.

Christmas Flowers

Once again, we are looking to collect any donations towards the flowers to decorate Our Lady of the Assumption over the Christmas period. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Please put any donations in the basket at the back of the church. Thank you

Confirmation Programme 2024

The programme for young people who wish to explore the sacrament of confirmation will start in the new year. If you're interested, please register with the office. You have nothing to lose but SO much to gain!

Our Lady of the Assumption - Quiz Night - 26th January 2024

A great date to start off your 2024 Diary/calendar! !! :-)

The date of the **OLA New Year Quiz Night is Friday 26th January 2024.**

Full details will be available and tickets will be on sale after Christmas.

In the meantime, wishing our whole Parish Family a Joyful Christmas. God Bless.

Fr. Elijah's Project in Bamenda The Reconstruction of the Catholic Nursery and Primary School in Ntambeng, Makon

You may already have heard of the school reconstruction project which is being sponsored by Fr. Elijah.

If not, you can go to the GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/4f57b2b0> (or you can scan the QR code below) to see a video which shows the urgent repairs which are needed.



Please consider making a donation.

This would be a great Christmas present for Fr. Elijah.

CKSC – Youth Meetings

In CKSC, youth meetings will run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays every month from 12:30 -14:00.

We encourage parents to lead their children to belong. For more information, email the office or speak to Uju Cummings.

Please note: Our Lady of the Assumption No OPEN CHURCH on 21st Dec and 28th Dec

There will be no OPEN CHURCH at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on 21st Dec and 28th Dec.

OPEN CHURCH will resume on Thursday 3rd Jan as usual from 11am to 1pm for private prayer.

If you are able to join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

Flowers at CKSC

Due to health reasons and Rosemary's family commitments, I am unable to continue decorating the church with flowers each week. I would be very happy if someone could take my place.

Flowers are not used during Advent but there will be a need at Christmas. Please think about this ministry and ask me any questions or for any information that is needed.

Thank you in anticipation - Maureen Sim

Bible Timeline Course

The Bible Timeline course is taking a break and will restart on 11th January 2024 at 7.15pm.

Faith on Fire

Faith on Fire will not meet during December. The next meeting will be on 31st January 2024

Retrouvaille: Help Your Marriage

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Indian Snacks

On Sunday 7th January 2024 Mothers' Charity will be serving Indian snacks in CKSC Hall after 11 o'clock Mass. Entry as usual will be by Donation, and Tea and Coffee will be served alongside.

Please support this initiative to raise funds for the school in Cameroon.

Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection is an opportunity for us to say thank you to Fr Elijah for his dedication and hard work. In addition to the usual ways of giving, donations may be made online by clicking the links below.

For OLA & SB click [here](#)

For CKSC click [here](#)

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

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<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

If you have news to share with the Diocese, contact: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

End of the Year Retreat - 28th Dec to 1st Jan

The Verbum Dei Community is leading a retreat at its Isle of Wight Centre to help explore and deepen the joy that our faith in Christ brings us, and prepare ourselves for the year to come.

For more information, please contact Sr.Emiliana 07426 000213 or verbumdei.iow@gmail.com.

Verbum Dei Retreat Centre
Nunnery Lane,
Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight
PO301YR

END OF THE YEAR SILENT RETREAT

Joy to the world, our Saviour has come!

28 DEC. - 1 JAN.

verbumdei.iow@gmail.com



CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need.

Parish Web Pages on Diocesan Website

Parish web pages are on the diocesan website at:

- [Christ the King & St Colman](#)
- [Our Lady of the Assumption](#)
- [St Brigid](#)

They can also be selected from

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/

[Sunday's Readings – here](#) [Diocesan eNews: – here](#) [Daily Readings – here](#)

[Reflections – here](#)

[UK Catholic Newspapers – here](#)