

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)

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Michael Ingram

Office: 2 Dean Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO18 6AP – Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am–1pm

Phone **023 8044 9088**, Email ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

The Epiphany of the Lord: Year B, Cycle II

7th January 2024

Following the Light of Christ

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ, a feast in which we celebrate the visit of the Magi and presentation of gifts to the newborn Jesus. Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing” or “making-known.” Originally, the word “Epiphany” referred to the visit of a king to the people of his provinces. Courtiers would ensure a good attendance by throwing coins to the populace along the way; the king’s visit was accompanied by a great parade, and he usually gave a banquet to which citizens were invited. He declared amnesty for political prisoners and did everything he could to guarantee the people’s loyalty.

As a Christian festival, Epiphany is a day for emphasizing the glory of the Lord, and several events to do this used to be celebrated on this day, the baptism of Jesus and the wedding feast at Cana, as well as the coming of the heavenly Father, and by the descent of the Holy Spirit; at Cana, Jesus worked the first of his signs and manifested his glory; and the coming of the Magi emphasized that God’s Son became flesh for Gentiles as well as Jews. An example of God’s epiphany is today’s reading from Isaiah, which is a poetic description of the New Jerusalem. It is hard to was a mystery of light. Stargazers followed a star and found a baby through whom God will light up the world. Epiphany is therefore a festival of light – a celebration of the light of Jesus in the darkness of the world. Just as light cannot be self-contained, pouring through every crack, it is the nature of God to be manifest and to show intense life.

Light as a symbol of God, plays an important role in the Bible. In the Old Testament, God calls Moses from the burning bush and leads the Jews through the desert by a pillar of fire; Moses’ face shines after he meets with God on Sinai. Many of the prophets had visions of light before they took up their calls. In Isaiah, Israel is to be a light unto the nations. In the New Testament, in St. John’s Gospel, the Word is the source of life, and this life brings light to humanity. White light was the mark of Jesus’ Transfiguration. Jesus calls Himself “the Light of the world” (Jn. 8:12). And it was a light from the sky that marked the conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus.

The Magi’s journey is full of symbolism. It is, for example, a symbol of the journey of each one of us. It was not without difficulties that the Magi came to

avoid the prophet’s sense of excitement and exuberance here at the thought of God involving Himself with His people. The promised return of the Jews to Jerusalem from the Babylonian exile had begun. The work of rebuilding the city and restoring the Temple had started, but things were not going on well. The people needed two things – discipline to maintain their identity, and encouragement. Isaiah provided discipline by stressing observance of the law – such rites as, circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, and minding the dietary laws. From this time on, the study of the Scriptures and conduct based upon the Mosaic Law will provide a sense of community and identity in Judaism that will grow.

The making-known of Jesus begins in St. Matthew’s Gospel with the Magi, or astrologers. They represent all people to whom God showed Himself in Jesus. Matthew’s purpose was – to reveal that God showed himself in Jesus for all people. He also wants to show the contrast and irony in Gentile leaders travelling hundreds of miles to honour the Messiah, and Jewish leaders a few miles away caring nothing for him and having no space in their inns for him. For Matthew, it believe in Jesus. Their trip was long and hard. It is also with great difficulties that many today struggle with their journey towards God. The Magi wondered about the road they should take, and some like Herod, taking no chances themselves, though the Magi ridiculous for taking their road; many voices invite us to take other roads and some ridicule us for taking the road to Jesus. The Magi recognized Jesus in the rising of a star; we recognize him in the breaking of the bread. They returned to their own country through a new road, filled with delight at having met the infant King of the Jews; from Holy Mass each day, we need to return to our homes as new people ready to bring the Lord we have received in those we meet. The example of the distant travel of the three Magi from a far-off land led by a star encourages us. No matter how distant our lives are from God, we can still come back to him trying to find out that one indicative star of the newborn baby amongst the myriads of stars that show even conflicting ways.

I wish you all a very Happy Epiphany and a Blessed Week

Fr Elijah

The Epiphany of the Lord – 7th January 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
For the people
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Denis Reading RIP
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (9th Jan – 14th Dec)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

- Sun 14th 9.15am **OLA**
11.00am **CKSC**
5.30pm **SB** *Sean Codell RIP*
6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

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)

Entrance Antiphon *Mal 3: 1; 1 Chr 29: 12*

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Communion Antiphon *Mt 2: 2*

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

OPEN CHURCH - Our Lady of the Assumption

OPEN CHURCH will resume on Thursday 3rd January 2024 as usual from 11am to 1pm for private prayer.

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

Bible Timeline Course

The Bible Timeline course is scheduled to recommence at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall at 7:15pm on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Any queries please contact Donald on 07508 010337 (course leader).

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.

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) where you can also see a video which shows the urgent repairs which are needed.

Please do consider making a donation if you have not done so already. Thank you.

QUIZ NIGHT - Our Lady of the Assumption 26th January 2024

Please, come and join in with our New Year Quiz Night. Details are:

- Our Lady of the Assumption church hall
- on Friday 26th January
- from 7.00pm (to form teams) ready for 7.30pm start.

Again, no increase in price!! Tickets £5.00 per adult and children are free.

Ticket price includes tea/coffee/squash and a Ploughman's Supper.

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks and also some cash for a fun raffle!

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 9 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 11 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 11am-1pm Open Church (OLA)
Sun 14 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 16 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 17 th	7.00-8.30pm Carer's Group (OLA Hall)
Thu 18 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 11am-1pm Open Church (OLA)
Tue 23 rd	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 25 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 11am-1pm Open Church (OLA)
Sun 28 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 30 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 31 st	8.00-9.00pm Faith on Fire (CKSC)

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
- **Youth Meetings** 12:30 -14:00 on 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.

CKSC Collection figures for November 2023

Here are the figures for CKSC for November 2023

- Loose Offertory £300.44
- Standing Orders & Direct Debits £1,865.50
- Donation from Polish Community £500.00
- Bamenda £146.05
- CAFOD Family Fast Day £8.00

The "Great Story of Jesus" retreat

The "Great Story of Jesus" retreat will be held at:

- Location:
St Peter's Pastoral Centre,
Winchester SO23 9SR
- Date: Saturday 13th January 2024
- Time: From 10am to 4pm

Start the new year with this retreat delivered by Sr. Margarida Mondral of the Verbum Dei Community. Refresh and reboot with a renewed appreciation of the core of our faith: the gift of the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit to animate our lived faith.

This may appeal to all who want to reflect more deeply on Jesus and how his life relates to our lives.

Please apply to Liza Nahajski for a place and more details at:

lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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.

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.

Please think about this ministry and ask me any questions or for any information that is needed.

Thank you in anticipation - Maureen Sim

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!

Indian Snacks

On Sunday 7th January 2024 Mothers' Charity will be serving Indian snacks in CKSC Hall after 11am 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.

Faith on Fire

Faith on Fire has resumed on the last Wednesday of every month from 8-9pm.

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 programmes:

- 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

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.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

@PortsmouthRC

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

@PortsmouthRC

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

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

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/

VACANCY

Housekeeper in Bitterne Presbytery

A vacancy has arisen for the role of housekeeper at the presbytery of Christ the King & St Colman, Our Lady of the Assumption. St Brigid parishes:

- Position: Housekeeper
- Hours of work: Part time post, 8 hours per week, days and times to be agreed
- Salary: £10.80 per hour

The role will be to provide meals for the priest in residence and visitors, as required, and to assist in cleaning the presbytery.

Experience required for role:

- Experienced cook with excellent culinary skills
- Ability to manage limited housekeeping budget

Personal attributes:

- Diplomatic, discreet with a sympathetic nature and emotional resilience
- Good time keeping
- Positive and flexible approach to work

If you would like to apply, please contact:

recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

for a job description and application form.

CAFOD School Volunteers needed

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry jlewy@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447.

This year we will be celebrating on the Year of Prayer as we look towards the Year of Jubilee. We'll share more in the coming months but please do get in touch if you have any ideas for how we can work together to mark the Year of Prayer and the Year of Jubilee.

We have published our Annual Report which can be found on our website. It contains a summary of our income and expenditure, an update of our key commitments and stories from our work around the world and here in England and Wales.

Sunday's Readings – [here](#)

Diocesan eNews: – [here](#)

Daily Readings – [here](#)

Reflections – [here](#)

UK Catholic Newspapers – [here](#)