

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/>

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B, Cycle II

21st January 2024

The Urgent Response to a call for Repentance

Jonah 3:1-5,10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

On this third Sunday of ordinary time, the church reminds us of urgency to respond to his call to holiness against the backdrop of the shortness of our time in this world. This theme runs through the three readings of this Sunday. If time is short, so, we must not hold tenaciously to this world that is quickly passing away. Rather, we must believe the good news and live for the kingdom of God.

In the first reading, Jonah lamented and warned the Ninevites: “Only forty days, and Nineveh will be destroyed.” The inhabitants of Nineveh heard the message, believed it, repented and God had mercy on them. Jonah preached just a brief and urgent sermon. Quickly, the people of Nineveh believed in God, repented, and fasted with sack cloths. The urgency expressed in today’s readings are meant to let us know that there is no room for procrastination. How much longer must we ourselves wait before we avail our hearts for the word of God?

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us: “Our time is growing short...for the world is passing away!” St. Paul simply, refers to the notion of sensitivity and urgency that should mark our lives and actions. He draws our attention to the signs of the time. Unfortunately, many of us ignore these signs. Perhaps, because we are economically and materially comfortable. However, the truth is that nothing the world offers can guarantee eternal security. So, we all must be ready because St. Paul’s warning affects everyone; the married, the single, those mourning, those

rejoicing, the rich and the poor, leaders, and followers, etcetera. Through it, St. Paul calls us to re-evaluate our relationship with God and our world, to accept the good news and bear witness to it.

In today’s gospel, Christ preached the same urgent message of Jonah and of John the Baptist: “the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news.” Like the Ninevites, the disciple of Christ, heard this message responded to it with urgency, each being sensitive, and knowing that there was no more time to waste. Christ said, “Follow me,” and the disciples simply obeyed.

So, Jesus continues to invite us to participate in his mission: “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” This is a life transforming invitation and mission. Our response to it should be urgent and positive. Fishers of Men makes us partners bringing ourselves and our neighbours into the kingdom. We need to be willing to go an extra mile in order to achieve this.

Finally, my brethren, if our time is short, if our world is passing away, if we have only forty days left, and if the kingdom of God is close at hand, why waste the little time we have hating, sinning, and running after material things? We must use it to seek and worship our God, to live in peace and love with others, to affect others and our society positively. We must use this short time to “seek what is good and pure, what is noble and true” (Phil 4:8).

Fr Elijah

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 21st Jan 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Wellbeing of Harold Luff
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
For the people
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)

Weekday Mass Times (23rd Jan – 28th Jan)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 23rd 10.30am **OLA**
- Wed 24th 10.00am **SB**
- Thu 25th 10.00am **CKSC**
- Fri 26th 10.00am **OLA**
- Sat 27th 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 28th 9.15am **OLA**
11.00am **CKSC**
5.30pm **SB**
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

Ps 96 (95): 1, 6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 34 (33): 6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

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).

OPEN CHURCH - Our Lady of the Assumption

PLEASE NOTE a change of time for Thursday's OPEN CHURCH. We will be open from Thursday 18th January from 10am-12 noon each week until further notice.

To join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

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
- Friday 26th January
- 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!

Second collection for the Cathedral on 21st Jan

The annual collection for the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist in Portsmouth takes place on 21st January.

The West Window began to collapse in January 2023 and cost more than £100,00 to restore. The heating systems have also required repairs.

The Dean of the Cathedral has appealed for support for this second collection.

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 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) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Fri 26 th	7.00pm (to form teams) for 7.30pm start QUIZ NIGHT (OLA Hall)
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)
Thu 1 st	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Tue 6 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 8 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)

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 10am-12 noon (OLA) after Jan 18th

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.

Leaking Porch Roof at Hedge End Church

The leak in the porch roof at Our Lady of the Assumption has been repaired using the funds accumulated from the monthly Hedge End Repair Fund collection.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Hedge Repairs Fund.

Faith on Fire

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

Week of Guided Prayer 22-26th January 2024

The Verbum Dei Community will lead an online **Week of Guided Prayer** from 22nd to 26th January 2024 with daily guidance to help us reflect on the NEWNESS that God wants to bring us this New Year, and to help us live our daily life with a greater awareness of God's presence.

For more information, please contact:

verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

First Friday Soup in OLA Hall – 2nd Feb

Our next First Friday Soup is at midday on Friday 2nd February in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.

Please do come along and join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup and crusty bread.

There is no charge however, donations will be gratefully received.

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!

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at <https://cafod.org.uk/ipc> or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter.

Collection figures for Hedge End and West End

The collection figures for Hedge End and West End for the period 1st September to 30 November 2023 as follows:

Figures for Hedge End and West End:

• Loose plate	£2,033.68
• Standing orders/direct payments	£4,901.00
• Hedge End Repairs Fund	£46.00
• Cricket car parking	£825.00
• Table tennis	£80.00
• Candles & flowers	£59.15

Second collections:

• Bamenda	£288.90
• Home Mission	£117.13
• World Mission	£271.17
• CAFOD	£498.57

Heating at CKSC

Unfortunately, the boiler in CKSC's church is still broken so there is no heating in the church. Please dress warmly for Mass.

Please could the message be passed around, especially to those who do not receive email.

Helpers Party on Monday February 12th at 7pm in Hedge End in the Church Hall

Everyone who is helping in church as a volunteer is invited to join in at the Helpers Party on Monday February at 12th 7pm in the Church Hall in Hedge End. A list for food and nibbles to bring will be at the back of both churches. Please come and join in for a get-together just before Lent starts.

[Sunday's Readings – here](#)

[Diocesan eNews: – here](#)

[Daily Readings – here](#)

[Reflections – here](#)

[UK Catholic Newspapers – here](#)

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<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.

Closing date for applications: 31 January 2024

CAFOD meetings

You are warmly invited to come to a CAFOD meeting to find out the difference that your donations make.

You can attend either on:

- Saturday 27th January from 10:30am to 1:30pm
- at Corpus Christi Church Hall, 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham RG40 2HE

or

- Saturday 3rd February
- at St Philip Howard Church Hall, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham PO14 1ND.

A simple lunch will be provided at both meetings so please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo on jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447.

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk

Put your faith into action this Lent by connecting with your local and global community in a meaningful way. Sign up for CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and challenge yourself to walk 200km in 40 days. You'll be joining a big team all over England, Wales and Scotland walking, raising money and helping people around the world as they overcome poverty.

You can sign up as an individual, parish or school at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>