

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 in Ordinary Time: Year B, Cycle II

28th January 2024

‘He taught them with authority’

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

On this 4th Sunday of ordinary time, the church continues to encourage us to listen attentively to Christ. He is our teacher who speaks with authority. Our first reading from Deuteronomy is one of those passages in the Scriptures referred to as the messianic prophecies. Through this prophecy from Moses, God promised us the Messiah. This promise was fulfilled in Christ. At the time of Moses (around the 13th century BCE), the Israelites longed for a prophet who would speak God’s word to them and lead them. Through Moses, God makes this promise to them: ‘I will raise up a prophet like you for them from their own brothers. I will put my words into his mouth, and he shall tell them all that I command him’ (Deut. 18:18). Our gospel reading shows that this promise was fulfilled supremely in Jesus Christ, whose authority astonished the people assembled in the synagogue of Capernaum.

In the gospel, Mark makes a clear distinction between the teaching of Jesus and that of the Scribes, the official interpreters of Jewish Law. The Scribes never expressed their own judgement or opinion. They always began by citing their authority and supported whatever they said with quotes from the great masters of the past. And their focus was on the external observances of the Law rather than its spirit. Their teaching failed to make much impression on the people because it lacked the power of personal conviction. Moreover, the scribes did not always practice what they preached (cf. Mt. 23:3).

The people immediately recognized that Jesus was a different kind of teacher. ‘His teaching made a deep impression on them’ (Mk. 1:22). Why did the teaching of Jesus have such an impact? In what way was it different from the teaching of the scribes? The words of Jesus had the power to move people’s hearts. They had the ring of truth about them because they came from personal experience. Jesus did not just repeat what others had said. He spoke with his own voice, his own authority. People listened to Jesus primarily because he was a living witness to the truth of God’s love. He showed this love by the way he lived. People experienced God’s mercy and compassion in his actions. He reached out to the sick

and less privileged, those who were neglected or excluded by society. In today’s gospel we see him freeing a man tormented by an ‘unclean spirit’ (cf. Mk. 1:23-26). This action moves the people to exclaim: ‘Here is a teaching that is new, and with authority behind it; he gives orders to unclean spirits, and they obey him’ (Mk. 1:27). The authority of Jesus’ teaching is manifested, above all, in his actions.

We tend to associate authority with people in positions of power in society, like political or religious leaders, people we see as *authority figures*. In this sense, Jesus did not have any power at all. He was not a worldly king with political or military power. And he was not of the priests, who held religious power in Roman Judea. Nor did he have the authority of a scribe based on tradition. The only authority he had was the supreme confidence that what he did and said was God’s will and God’s truth, and the source of this authority lay in his intimate communion with his heavenly Father, who, on the occasion of his baptism and transfiguration, had affirmed him as his ‘beloved son, in whom I am well pleased’ (Mk. 1:11).

Jesus uses his authority to liberate people from the evil forces that dominate their lives, and to bring them the blessings of health and healing, freedom and hope. He came, as he himself states, ‘to serve not to be served, and to give his life for us’ (Mk. 10:45). And he wants us to imitate his example. ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them... Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant’ (Mk. 10:42-43). By virtue of our baptism, all of us share in the authority of Jesus, in his prophetic, priestly, and kingly mission, even if we may have no official leadership position in the Church. And we are empowered and summoned to use this authority to serve others, as Jesus did. Let us pray that we may teach and serve as Christ did.

Fr Elijah

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28th Jan 2024

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

Weekday Mass Times (30th Jan – 4th Feb)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 30th 10.30am **OLA**
- Wed 31st 10.00am **SB** *Isobel Baldwin (RIP)*
- Thu 1st 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 2nd 10.00am **OLA**
- Sat 3rd 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 4th 9.15am **OLA**
11.00am **CKSC**
5.30pm **SB**
6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

We also look forward to welcoming Canon John Cooke to our parishes on Sunday 4th February, who will be joining us to celebrate Mass and promote vocations.

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 106 (105): 47

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 31 (30): 17-18

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Bible Timeline Course

The Bible Timeline course continues at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall at 7:15pm on Thursdays. 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

Faith on Fire

We start back this Wednesday 31st January at 8pm in the hall of CKSC. All those at secondary school and beyond are welcome. Come for an hour of sharing and discussion on faith and life.

Tackling long-standing and controversial questions in medical care.

Register for our 2024 Symposium 'What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today' taking place at The Arc, Winchester on Saturday 16 March.

Find out more: [Click Here](#).

St Brigids Feast Day

5:30pm Sunday Mass at St Brigids on 4th February will be celebrating St Brigids feast day and tea and cakes will be served after Mass. All are welcome.

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!

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.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

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)
Sun 11 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 13 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 15 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Sun 18 th	During 9.15 Mass Childrens' Liturgy (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.

Confirmation

Please send your name into the office if you would like to see what this journey to Confirmation is all about.

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 7th February in CKSC church at 7.30pm. Come and see!!! Open to all from year 8 and above.

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

Have you thought of becoming a special minister? It is a privilege to serve in this way and very humbling to do this. Speak to other ministers and hear first hand what it is like. Training will be given when we know who and how many would like to investigate this essential ministry in the church. Contact the office to put your name forward or speak to Fr Elijah.

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.

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

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.

Collection figures for Hedge End and West End

The collection figures for Hedge End and West End for December 2023 as follows:

• Loose plate	£692.52
• Standing orders/direct payments	£1,603.00
• Christmas Mini-Mart	£465.11
• Car parking	£20.00
• Table tennis	£140.00
• Christmas flowers	£30.00

Wild Goose

During Lent we are running a course called the Mysteries of The Rosary - the Sorrowful Mysteries, produced by Wild Goose TV. We are running it on Wednesday evenings in CKSC Church and on Thursday mornings after mass in CKSC. This is an opportunity to prepare ourselves in a prayerful way for Easter. More information to follow later.

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 £100,000 to restore. The heating systems have also required repairs.

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

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.

CAFOD - Big Lent Walk

We are planning a Parishes walk on Saturday 2nd March. We will meet at Itchen Valley Country Park at 10.30am after mass at 9.30am at CKSC. The idea is to raise money and awareness to help fight global poverty. For more information watch this space or contact Deirdre 07828810009

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](#)

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

WANTED - Rosary Beads.

Please donate your spare and unused rosary beads to the Stella Maris charity in Southampton. Your spare beads will be passed on to the many hundreds of seafarers and their families, where there is great demand for them.

You can post them to: Stella Maris, c/o St Edmund's Catholic Church, 14 Rockstone Pl, Southampton SO15 2EQ.

Email for more information:

gregory.hogan@stellamarismail.org

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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

If you have news to share with the Diocese, contact:

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk