

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 (safeguarding.soukc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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/>

5th Sunday of Easter: Year B, Cycle II

28th April 2024

I am the Vine, You are the Branches

Today the 5th Sunday of Easter, the Church reminds us that Christ is the real vine and that we are his branches. We are called to produce excellent fruit in Christ, as branches formed on the true vine.

One amazing thing we observe about St. Paul in today's first reading is how drastically his life altered following his dramatic conversion. He was instantly changed from Saul the persecutor to Paul the gospel speaker, and he began to bear fruit in Christ right away. His genuine conversion and faith in Jesus Christ resulted in a bountiful harvest of souls that is still being harvested today. Because he was a "deeply crafted and rooted branch" in Christ, the real vine, he produced good fruits.

In the second reading, John reminds us: "...our love is not to be just words, but something real and active. Only through this can we be certain that we are the children of truth..." John seems to remind us of the saying that: "Action speaks louder than words." The word of God transforms us because it is real and active. So, we cannot love God or keep his commandments without concrete works of charity and mercy. Also, we cannot remain in Christ without bearing fruits as a mark of our union with him.

Today's gospel is a call to strengthen our relationship with Christ in order to continue to live in Him. The type of relationship that should exist between us and Christ is illustrated using what is natural to us. That is, the relationship between a vine and its branches. No branch can have life or bear fruit on its own, unless it is firmly attached to a tree. Likewise, in our spiritual lives and journeys as Christians, we cannot do without being firmly attached to Christ the vine, in whose name we were baptized. We are created, and called to remain in Christ for a purpose, and this purpose is, to bear durable fruits in him. Today, Christ tells us: "I am the Vine, and my Father is the Vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make

it bear even more" (Jn. 15:1-2). To bear fruits depends on two things: first, on how much we hold onto Christ, and secondly, on how much we endure the necessary pruning which God brings upon us.

On the flip side, those branches that do not bear fruit are cut off and burnt (Jn. 15:2, 6). This reminds us of the fate of those sheep who would be found on the left of the Master on the last day, to whom he would say, 'depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels' (Mt. 25:41).

As we ponder these implications of the parable of the vine, we can assume two aspects of our lives: the sinful (unproductive branches) and the saintly (productive branches). This distinction depends fundamentally on whether we are united with Christ or not. It is not so much about people out there as it is about different aspects of our individual lives: some aspects of our lives are productive while others are still unproductive; in some respects, we might have yielded to Christ but not in others. It goes without saying, therefore, that sin overpowers us only when we are severed from Christ the true Vine. Sometimes we are afraid to let Christ into our lives or to hold unto to him, thinking this may entail we lose out on life.

So, instead of a passive life, to be in Christ means to live an active and positive life characterized by charity, peace, holiness, pure reverence, and love for God, and for our neighbours. In other words, it is possible to bear good fruits in Christ through a good and virtuous life. Today, the church provides us the opportunity to reflect on our spiritual progress. How is my relationship with Christ, the true vine? Am I still living in him? Have I born any good fruit in Christ?

May the grace of Christ aid us daily as we struggle to bear fruits in Him.

Fr. Elijah

5th Sunday of Easter

28th April 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Pauline Walford for her birthday (on 27th)
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Siobhan Waters RIP
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (30th April – 5th May)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

**PLEASE NOTE:
THERE ARE NO WEEKDAY MASSES
AS FR. ELIJAH IS AWAY**

- Sun 5th 9.15am OLA For the people
11.00am CKSC For the people
5.30pm SB
6.00pm CKSC Polish Mass

On Sunday 5 May we welcome Fr Paul Nwune who will be saying Mass in all three churches.

**Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tues – Fri)
Sacrament of Confession is available on request**

Please consider offering Mass Intentions for families and friends (contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

OPEN CHURCH - Our Lady of the Assumption

Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Hedge End is open for private prayer every Thursday from 10am until midday. To join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

Easter Collections:

Your Easter Donations via the Give as you Live websites, would be sincerely appreciated:

CKSC: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-christ-the-king-and-st-colman-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024>

OLA & SB:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hedge-end-our-lady-of-the-assumption-and-st-brigid-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024>

Faith on Fire group not meeting until July

There will be no Faith on Fire for March, April, May and June, until after the confirmation on 30th June.

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

Please can anyone who has been, is currently, or wishes to be a Eucharistic Minister contact the church office so we can update our information list.

We are especially in need of ministers who would be willing to visit parishioner at home or their place of care.

Father Elijah is talking to the deanery about Eucharistic minister training. The idea is that those who have previously done a course should carry out refresher training.

As yet no date has been set for training.

Safeguarding - E-Learning

In accordance with the national safeguarding standards, training is mandatory for anyone who holds a role within the parish working with either

- children
- adults at risk or those who might otherwise be vulnerable.

Training must be refreshed every 2 years.

If your training is not up to date, please register for either face-to-face or on-line training at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/safeguarding/training/>

or scan the QR-code.

Attendees will receive certificates on completion of their training to support continuing ministry.



OLA - Friday Soup 10th May 2024

First Friday Soup for May will be on the **Second Friday of May!**

Please do come along and join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup and crusty bread being served from **12.00 noon on FRIDAY 10th MAY** in **Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.**

There is no charge. However, donations will be gratefully received for CAFOD.

We look forward to seeing you on 10th May.
With thanks and God bless.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

@PortsmouthRC Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

@PortsmouthRC

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

If you have news to share, contact:

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

APRIL

Sun 28th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)

Tue 30th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

MAY

Thu 2nd 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Tue 7th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Thu 9th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Sun 12th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)

Tue 14th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Wed 15th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)

Thu 16th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Sun 19th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (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)

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 **March, April, May, June, 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

St Brigids (West End)

- **Tea, coffee & cake** every 2nd Sunday of the month after Mass

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

ROSARY RALLY - Saturday 27th April at 3pm Commercial Road, Portsmouth

Parishioners from churches all across the Diocese will be attending a Rosary Rally by The Marian Franciscans next to the QE2 Silver Jubilee Fountain in Portsmouth City centre, to combat these evil times that we find ourselves in and to make reparation. Please come along. Now is the time we pray, offer sacrifices and to act for the salvation of souls!

CKSC Collections in March

Here are the figures for CKSC for March 2024:

• Loose Offertory	£372.29
• Contactless Giving – Parish	£126.85
• Standing Orders & Direct Debits	£1,874.50
• Donation from Polish Community	£400.00
• Hall Rent	£660.00
• CAFOD (cash & contactless giving)	£147.56
• Clergy Assistance Fund (cash/contactless)	£80.40

ADoRE Mini-Retreat for Spiritual Renewal 27th April 2024



LIVE OPTION

Venue: St Bede's Church, Popley Way
Basingstoke RG24 9DX

Timing: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Guest speaker: Kristina Cooper, former editor of "Good News" magazine.

Please bring food for shared lunch!

LIVESTREAM OPTION

The morning session 9.30-1.00 will be live-streamed on Zoom. Please register in advance for the link at <http://bit.ly/ADOREAPR2024>

Invitation to leave a legacy for CAFOD

Join CAFOD's Director Christine Allen to explore the power of leaving a gift in your Will to make a lasting impact in the world, at Our Lady of Sorrows & St. Philip Benizi in Fordingbridge SP6 1EG on Tuesday 18 June, 10.45am to 12:25pm.

To find out more and to book your place please go to cafod.org.uk/legacyevent

St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion

Date: Sunday 28th April 2024. -- Time: 3-5 pm

Reminder!! Email Jeanine Bonavia at

jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk or call **023 8067 0104** to

book a place by **Friday, 26th April**, so we know the numbers attending.

All welcome.

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.



STELLA MARIS – RING OF PRAYER

STELLA MARIS

(6th to 10th May)

Dear Parishioners, we have been invited, as a joint Parish, by Stella Maris to take on one week of a 50 week Ring of Prayer around the UK. This is in support of Seafarers, Fishers, SM Chaplains and the Ocean Environment

Stella Maris Rosary Prayer will take place before weekday Masses, at all three of our Churches, starting 09:30am. We are further encouraged to pray as families, at home, on each of the days allocated to us, using specific prayers for each day. This is a beautiful way to support Stella Maris and introduce our children to Rosary Prayer, and the joy of praying for others.

Full details of the prayers for each day can be found on this website - <https://sailingpilgrimages.co.uk/ring-of-prayer/>.

Contact Russ Fairman for more information

russ.fairman@gmail.com

Mobile: +44 (0) 7985 433953

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240428/mass.htm>

Reflections

<http://www.mycatholic.com/>

Diocesan eNews

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

UK Catholic Newspapers

<https://www.churchpaper.co.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/

CAFOD - A Year of Encounter

A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

CAFOD provides practical support to people and communities in need around the world. We are all invited to play our part in creating the social conditions necessary to build a world that reflects the Kingdom of God.

Red Box 2023: Thank You



In 2023 Our Parishes raised

£1,024.67 through our Red Boxes

and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of Missionary Priests, like Fr Ignatius MHM working with a rural community in Uganda, enables people to come together to celebrate the Eucharist and to work together to improve the lives of the whole community. Visit mission.org.uk to find out more.

Lord Mayor of Southampton's Charity

Sunday 5th May at 2.30pm, as one of her final acts as the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Valerie Laurent will as 'Admiral of the Port', host the traditional Rogation Service on board the prestigious steamship, SS Shieldhall celebrating the Solent Waters.

All those who wish to celebrate the importance of the Solent waters to Southampton in providing a recreational, business and natural resource, are invited to join her.

A service will take place followed by refreshments with musical accompaniment by the Albion Band and Sea shanties sung by the Southampton Salty Sea Dogs. The event is ticket only for a £5 donation to include refreshments and available through Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blessing-of-the-waters-tickets-658568214257?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1.

Participants will also have an opportunity to visit the engine room.

All funds will go to the Lord Mayor's three chosen charities: Saints Foundation, the Southampton Sea Cadets, and Southampton City Farm and the SS Shieldhall.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES View vacancies at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>