

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

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21st and 22nd Sundays in Ordinary Time (Year B)

25th August 2024

Lord, to Whom shall we go?

For the 21st Sunday of OT, Year B

When faced with a life-crossing decision, we frequently don't know which path to take. These are the times when we have to make the proper choices, and the decisions we make then have an impact on our future. These choices could relate to our marriage partners, careers, or academic endeavours, among other things. I faced this decision at one point in my own life, having to decide whether to accept God's call or reject it. I'm grateful that the Holy Spirit provided me with the insight I needed to make the best decision.

In today's first reading, having almost come to the end of his mission, Joshua reminded Israel of how faithful and pleasing the Lord has been to them. Finally, he challenged them: "If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve..." Their response was relatively rapid and positive: "We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God..."

In our second reading, Paul employs the analogy of marriage to explain and remind us of Christ's relationship with His disciples. Paul describes this relationship as a mystery with many implications. It is a relationship based on a mutual love for one another.

In today's gospel, after the bread of life discourse, some followers of Christ were disappointed. What they heard was not what they expected to hear from Christ. This teaching is too difficult for us! You are complicating our lives! They could not take it anymore. For this reason, many of them chose to abandon Him. So, turning to his disciples, Christ asked: "What about you, do you want to go away too?" This question from Christ is like Joshua's. It leaves one with an option to remain with or to abandon Christ at challenging moments in life. It is like saying, if you too are not convinced and comfortable with this truth, you may also leave.

There are lots of lessons for us today. Many of us come to Christ thinking that everything must be easy. Some of us come with fixed expectations and just to hear what we wish to hear. So, if our expectations are not met, we quit and bid Christ farewell. So, we must ask ourselves today. Does my faith depend on God meeting my expectations?

For the 22nd Sunday of OT, Year B

Today, the twenty second Sunday of ordinary time, we rejoice in the Law of God which is fulfilled in the Sacrament of love and dwells in a pure and transformed heart. Hence, today's readings lead us to reflect on the best way to obey it for the sake of our own salvation.

In our first reading, Moses reminded his people of the commandment of God and urged them to be steadfast to it in order to be successful in life. Importantly, he warned them not to add or remove from it. However, this warning was not taken seriously, because the Pharisees multiplied the ten commandments to about six hundred and thirteen legal codes.

So, in today's gospel, Jesus confronted the Pharisees because of their hypocrisy. They never observed the law that they multiplied for their people. This is a dangerous way of life that we must be careful of. We must not live a hypocritical life, or even make life difficult for others.

Furthermore, by saying that: "What comes out of a man is what defiles him," Christ calls us to self-evaluation. The malicious intentions, the hatred, pride, the corrupt tendencies we harbor in our heart are really what define and make us who we are. They are the vices that make us bad. We must evict them before they rock our spiritual boat. They are the real and hidden enemies that we must fight and defeat daily.

The best way to be faithful to God's command is to allow our hearts to be transformed by it. So, rather than pay excessive attention to the letters of the law and physical purity, we must heed Paul's advice: "Let your hearts be inwardly transformed, so that you will know the will of God." (Rom. 12: 2). God's will is his law. It must motivate us to love others, and to avoid evil. It must evoke true repentance and a sincere will to forgive others. It must keep us firm in faith. Above all, it must move us to pursue only what is good, just, noble and holy.

Today, the apostle James admonishes us in our second reading: Accept and submit to the word [God's command] which has been planted in you...you must do what the word tells you." Of course, the best way to do this is to let our Christianity find expressions in the way we live, love and treat one another.

21st Sunday of the Year – 25th August 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Thanksgiving for Marion & Doug's wedding anniversary
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Special Intention
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

22nd Sunday of the Year – 1st September 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
45th Wedding anniversary of Graham & Christine Palethorpe
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the wellbeing and quick recovery of Cheryl Anderson
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (27th Aug – 1st Sep)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 27th 10.00am **OLA** *For Joseph Waas RIP, father of Peter Waas*
- Wed 28th 10.00am **SB** *For the people*
- Thu 29th 10.00am **CKSC** *For wellbeing of David Reid Marina & Augustin Cenac*
- Fri 30th 10.00am **OLA** *Callaghan family intentions*
- Sat 31st 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Weekday Mass Times (3rd – 8th September)

- Tue 3rd 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*
- Wed 4th 10.00am **SB** *Special Intention*
- Thu 5th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 6th 10.00am **OLA** *Special Intention*
- Sat 7th 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 8th 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

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

Appeal from Fr. Elijah

Last September, I made an appeal for anyone of goodwill to help sponsor a child's Tuition in Bamenda (£150 for Primary Schools; £250 for secondary schools).

As schools resume this September, I come again to make this appeal. If you wish to offer some help, please kindly let me or the Parish Administrators know.

Thank you so much.

Fr. Elijah

Newsletters in August

With the holiday season upon us we are planning to have fortnightly newsletters throughout August. Newsletters will be published for the 11th and 25th August, so if you have something which you'd like advertising please keep this in mind.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation for 2024/25

If you have a child who will be in YEAR 4 OR ABOVE IN SEPTEMBER 2024, who would like to attend preparation sessions to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the First Time in 2025, registration is taking place over the summer.

Please complete a registration form (available at the back of our three churches) and send it in to the Parish Office.

The Closing Date for acceptance of Registration Forms is SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024. There will be a Parents Introductory Meeting during the early part of October (exact date to be confirmed later).

Sessions will begin in October 2024, leading to 1st Holy Communion being celebrated on the Sunday of the Feast of Corpus Christi which will be Sunday 22nd June 2025.

We look forward to welcoming you. In the meantime, we wish all our children and families a safe and happy summer break. God Bless you all.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Fri 23 rd	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 25 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 27 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA) Sun
Thu 29 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Sun 1 st	Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (CKSC)
Tue 3 rd	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 5 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Sun 8 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC) Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (SB)
Tue 10 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 12 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Fri 13 th	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 15 th	Children's Liturgy during Mass (OLA)
Tue 17 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 18 th	7.00-8.30pm Carer's Group (OLA Hall) 8pm-9pm 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** every Thursday from 10am-12pm

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 to August, 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
- **Choir practice in hall** - 7:30pm on 2nd & 4th Friday each month. All welcome.

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.

Our Lady of the Assumption 2025 - Our Big Year!

On Ascension Day, Pope Francis 'launched' the Jubilee Year 2025 with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope".

Also, in April 2025, Our Lady of the Assumption will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Church building (previously the church was in what is now our hall).

We need your ideas as to how, we can celebrate these 2 significant milestones. Please consider and pray on "What are our aspirations and hopes for the future of our church?"

If you are interested and/or have ideas but couldn't make the meeting, please speak with Marion or Helen.

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.

Daily Readings (25th August)

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240825/mass.htm>

Daily Readings (1st September)

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240901/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>

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

Faith on Fire will start again on 18th September in Christ the King and St Colman church 7.30pm to 9pm. All Young people from secondary age upwards are welcome. For more information contact Deirdre 07828810009

Collection figures for Hedge End/West End

Income figures for Hedge End and West End Parish for July 2024:

Looseplate	£1,149.97
Standing orders and other direct payments	£1,841.50
Car parking	£1,340.00
Donation Day	£2,089.00
Hall income	£697.50
Church rent	£160.00
Fund raising - Quiz night	£417.00
Donations	
Second collections	
Peter's Pence	£131.52
Stella Maris	£169.50

OPEN CHURCH:

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.

Safeguarding E-Learning

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) has developed the Learning Management System (LMS) as an online learning platform specifically for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Training is now aligned with the nature of the role the volunteer is undertaking and 3 modules are available:

Level 1 – Casual volunteers (roles with no DBS eligibility).

Level 2 – Volunteers who hold a role with DBS eligibility but do not require a check of the barred list.

Level 3 – Volunteers who hold a role with DBS eligibility, including a check of the barred list.

Level 3 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/>

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

Congratulations to Bijo Emmanuel

Our prayers and best wishes are with Bijo Emmanuel who is leaving this weekend to begin his novitiate with the Dominicans. Bijo will be joining the Dominican Priory of St. Michael the Archangel in Cambridge for the first year of his priestly training. He will be joined by two of his friends, Michael and Billy-Jo. The Dominicans, also known as the Blackfriars, are called to preach the Gospel, whether in sermons, or by teaching, or in other forms of Christian ministry, as well as by the life they live together in community. May God bless Bijo in the discernment of his vocation.

