

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/>

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

29th September 2024

God Bestows His Gifts on Anyone He Desires

Today, the twenty-sixth Sunday of ordinary time urges us to consider God, who extends his grace to everyone without condition. People from all countries and backgrounds can reject wickedness and make the genuine Spirit of God known in their lives and deeds by virtue of God's free gift. There are several similarities between today's gospel and the first reading.

In the first reading, we see men who remained in the “camp,” prophesying in the power of God's Spirit. In the gospel, we equally see men outside the fold of Christ's disciples preaching and casting out demons both in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ. Consequently, we see the zealous and envious disciples getting afraid and worried. They feared that these individuals, chosen by the Lord and anointed with His spirit, were outside their flock and posed a challenge to their position and mission. They therefore got envious of them and hated them rather than viewing them as fellow labourers in God's ministry. They believed that God's mission and spirit were exclusively theirs. Regretfully, they were in error.

Interestingly, Moses and Jesus refused to yield to the fears, jealousy and malicious request of their disciples to stop them. Being filled with the spirit of God themselves, they wisely discerned and knew that these men were genuine. Their mission is in line with the will of God, that all men may receive His spirit and preach the good news. Hence, Moses responded, “If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets and, the Lord gave his Spirit to them all.” While Jesus told his disciples, “You must not stop him. No one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me.” So, for Moses and Jesus, it was a good development, and they were against the spirit of envy and oppression.

So, in today's second reading, St. James warns against oppression, and injustices of all kinds against the weak, the poor and those who God has freely chosen. This is especially against those who do not belong to our, group, or class. We should not strangle the true spirit of God at work in them. Rather, we should help them to advance and grow physically and spiritually.

There are many lessons for us from today's readings. First, God can choose and use anyone he wishes for his mission. Second, He gives his Spirit for the edification of his church. Third, nothing (not even the devil), can stop whoever God truly anoints for his mission. So, when Christ says that: “The gate of hell shall not prevail against the Church” (Mt. 16:18), He means that the Spirit of God is upon His church. It shall last as long as God wishes.

Fourth and most important, we must not be jealous or envious of the gift of others. Rather, we should see one another (especially, those that God has truly called) as companions in God's mission. But, surely, this is a bit tricky and difficult. Does it mean that every spirit is true? Certainly no, Especially, now that there are many false and self-made pastors, prophets and wolves in sheep's garment. However, there is no cause for alarms! All we need to do is humbly and carefully, “discern every spirit” (I Jn. 4:1). Christ's standard of “by their fruits you shall know them” (Mt. 7:16) must be wisely followed for this discernment. Also, the universal rule that, “not all that glitters is gold” must be diligently observed.

I wish you a Blessed Sunday and a Fruitful Week.

Fr. Elijah

26th Sunday of the Year – 29th September 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Michael Peacock RIP
- 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)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (1st – 6th October)

- Tue 1st 10.00am **OLA**
- Wed 2nd 10.00am **SB NO MASS TODAY**
- Thu 3rd 10.00am **CKSC**
- Fri 4th 10.00am **OLA**
- Sat 5th 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 6th 9.15am **OLA** *For the Saxby Family*
11.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
5.30pm **SB** *For the people*
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. Donations of children's shoes suitable for casual and school use. Also text books from 'A' levels and GCSE's that are no longer needed.

Thank you so much. *Fr. Elijah*

CAFOD Family Fast Day (4th October)

The second collection on 6th October will be for CAFOD following family fast day on Friday, 4th October.

Fr Kevin Delaney RIP

The funeral for Fr Kevin will take place on Friday, 4th October at 2pm in Sacred Heart Church, London Road, Hook, RG27 9LA.

There will be a live stream of his funeral which can be accessed by going to Sacred Heart Hooks website and following the links for 'live mass'.

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Preparation 2024/25

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024

IMPORTANT: The closing date for acceptance of Registration Forms of children, who should be in Year 4 or above, who wish to prepare to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the 1st time is SUNDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2024.

Registration Forms are at the back of our 3 churches and can be handed to Helen at Our Lady of the Assumption, Sonia at Christ the King & St Colman or sent directly to the Parish Office.

PARENTS' INTRODUCTORY MEETING

- Start: 7.30pm
- On: Monday 14th October
- At: Christ the King & St Colman Church

If a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate has not been handed in with the Registration Form, please bring along a copy, or the original for copying, to the meeting on 14th October.

Preparation Sessions will take place, during school term time, on Monday evenings from 6.15pm to 7.30pm. The venue will alternate each week between Christ the King & St Colman, Bitterne and Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End.

1st Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated on the Sunday of the Feast of Corpus Christi which is 22nd June 2025.

Please do not hesitate to speak to one of us if you have any queries. God Bless.

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.

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.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

SEPTEMBER

Sun 29th **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (SB)

OCTOBER

- Tue 1st 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 3rd 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 6th **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)
- Tue 8th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 9th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 10th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 11th 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)
- Sun 13th **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (SB)
- Tue 15th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 16th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 17th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 20th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)
- Tue 22nd 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (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** 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
- **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.

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.

Faith on Fire

Following our session on Wednesday, we will meet again on Wednesday, 27th November in Christ the King and St Colman Church at 7.30pm until 8.30pm.

All young people over secondary school age are welcome. We will be looking at poverty and our response to it as Catholic Christians.

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.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day Friday 4th October

We hope that you will be able to support a collection for CAFOD in your parish to support our sisters and brothers around the world.



CAFOD's helps build a better future by teaching skills in CAFOD-funded training centres. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so people can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential.

Use the envelope in church or give online at <http://cafod.org.uk/envelope>.

We Dare to Say

Pope Francis has asked us, in preparation for the Holy Year in 2025, to make this year a time for refreshing our prayer, especially our appreciation and use of the Our Father.

We will be running "We Dare to Say", a five-week faith sharing resource on the familiar and powerful words of the Our Father. Each session is complete in itself so please come to the evenings you are able.

It will be held in Christ the King and St Colman church on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm to 9pm starting October 2nd.

For more information look at the link here <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-say/>

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240929/ma ss.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 with the Diocese, contact: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Training Session

Diocesan Safeguarding training will take place as Immaculate Conception Church in Portswood on 26th October between 11am and 4pm.

If you are a volunteer and have not received training in the last 3 years, please contact our Parish Office and they will send you an invite to the training.

They are keen to know numbers by the 18th, so please respond as soon as possible if you need training.

Ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law

It only takes 30 seconds to contact your MP using this easy-to-use tool.

Ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law.



Prayers for life - stop assisted suicide

The Prime Minister is paving the way for a parliamentary vote before Christmas to legalise assisted suicide.

The Government and assisted suicide lobbyists are putting intense pressure on MPs to support a Private Members' Bill to rush legislation into law. A Private Members' Bill was the same mechanism used to legalise abortion in 1967.

This is contrary to Catholic teaching and, as we have seen in other countries like the Netherlands and Canada, it particularly puts vulnerable people at risk.

Please pray this bill will not succeed.

You can also contact you MP at

<https://righttolife.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2b57a06f3f56132a570ea2282&id=645828112e&e=2e3726ec9f>

