

# 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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Solemnity of Christ the King

24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## *Acknowledging Christ as King in Private and in Public*

Christ the King Sunday is celebrated by Christians in Bamenda and several other West African nations with a large, joyous procession through the city's main streets. While this may seem strange to some Christian communities around the world and to us here in the Diocese of Portsmouth, Pope Pius XI had a public display of faith in mind when he instituted this feast.

The Feast of Christ the King marks the end of ordinary time and the completion of the Church's liturgical year. It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to promote devotion to the Universal Lordship of Christ in response to the growing secularism of the Western world – a secularism that sadly shows no signs of receding a century later. In 1969, Pope Paul VI gave the celebration the title, 'Jesus Christ, King of the Universe', and moved it from the last Sunday in October to the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

One reason why the feast was initially celebrated on the last Sunday of October was, perhaps, to associate it with the feast of All Saints on November. For, who are the saints if not those generous men, women and children who bore courageous witness to Christ in their lives, private as well as public? One such saint is St. Thomas More, recently proclaimed patron saint of politicians.

Thomas More was a brilliant lawyer and diplomat in 16th century England. His patriotism and loyalty to the throne attracted the attention of King Henry VIII who made him Lord Chancellor of England, the first layperson to be entrusted with such an honourable responsibility. What Henry VIII did not know was that loyal as More was to him, his first loyalty was to Christ, the king of kings.

When Henry VIII, therefore, decided to divorce his wife Catherine of Aragon, marry Anne Boleyn, and make himself head of the Church of England, More thought this was not right. Rather than approve what he believed to be against the divine will, he resigned from his prestigious and wealthy position as Lord Chancellor and lived a life of poverty. Because he would not give his support to the king, More was

arrested, convicted of treason, imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1534 and beheaded in July of the following year. On his way to public execution, More encouraged the people to remain steadfast in the faith. His last recorded words were: "I die the king's good servant, but God's first." For More, it was not simply enough to confess Christ privately in the safety of one's heart and home; one must also confess him in one's business and professional life as well as in the laws and policies that govern society.

But Christ is not a threat to the kingdoms of the world. This was the thinking of Pontius Pilate in today's gospel when he was interrogating Jesus. Jesus' answer was that, yes, he was indeed a king, but not the sort of king he had in mind. Here is the difference between the kingship of Christ and that of Pilate and other kings of this world. (1) Other kingdoms have territorial boundaries but the kingship of Christ is universal. Christ is king without borders. (2) Other kingdoms come and go, but the kingship of Christ is eternal. (3) Other kingdoms are sustained by military or economic power, but the kingship of Christ is sustained by the power of truth and prayer. Citizens of Christ's kingdom must, therefore, stand by the truth even when it is hurting and embarrassing to do so.

When we speak about the kingdom of God in this way, some people ask: what then becomes of patriotism and national loyalty? Patriotism and national loyalty certainly have their place in the Christian life, but loyalty to God comes first. In the name of patriotism and national loyalty some Christians have surrendered their consciences to the state. Today's celebration challenges us to look more critically at the laws and policies governing public life and examine them in the light of the law of Christ. As Christians we should be loyal citizens of our countries, but loyal citizens of God's kingdom first.

*Fr. Elijah*

### Solemnity of Christ the King (24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*Callaghan Family Intentions*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Thanksgiving on Joan St Omer's birthday*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*Private Intention*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

### Mass Times 26<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December

**OLA** – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *For the intentions of Deidre Fairman*
- 12.00pm **SB** *Marriage of John & Mary-Ann McDonagh*
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB** *In thanksgiving for Juila Baldwin on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*
- Thu 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *Ann Marie Whitlock*
- Fri 29<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *For the wellbeing of Elianna*
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 9.15am **OLA** *For the people*
- 11.00am **CKSC** *Birthday Thanksgiving - Thank you Lord for all the blessings- Clara Smallwood*
- 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)**

### OPEN CHURCH

Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Hedge End is open for private prayer on Thursdays from 10am until midday.

To join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

### CKSC Giving tree for Advent

#### Stella Maris Christmas Chocolate appeal 2024

Can you help us give chocolates to Seafarers arriving in our ports this Christmas? Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world.

We want to show them our support and that they are not forgotten this Christmas. Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts this Advent?

If so, please put your gifts under our giving tree at Christ the King & St Colman's church by Sunday 15th December. THANK YOU!

### CKSC Weekday Masses in Chapel

Weekday Masses will be held in the Eucharistic Chapel until work in the Church is completed. Sunday Masses are unchanged.

### Our Lady of the Assumption Christmas Giving Tree

Our Christmas Giving Tree Gifts this year will, again, be going to POITIERS CARE (food delivery project) which is a Catholic Organisation supporting any person or family in and around the Southampton area, of any background, who are in need.

We are gifting Christmas Treats: biscuits, chocolates, tins of fruit, sweets, ready-made custard, tinned cream, tinned ham, snacks, 'long-life' jellies/trifles, mince pies, crackers ... any Christmas themed treats and foods you can think of. Please place your gifts under the tree, **ideally before 15th December**, to ensure Poitiers have sufficient time to distribute the gifts in time for Christmas.

Stuck for ideas?? Take a tag or two from the tree, bring your gift(s) along and help bring some "Christmas Cheer" to so many families who are less fortunate than us.

### Hedge End & West End Fundraising

The annual **Christmas Mini Mart** will take place on **Sunday 1st December 2024 after Mass at the Church Hall in Hedge End.**

Thank you very much for the donations we have received so far, however we need more donations please.

Donations for stalls, the tombola and raffle, such as good quality unwanted presents, gift sets, toiletries, chocolates, any alcoholic beverages, cards, wrapping paper etc. will be greatly appreciated. Please make sure everything is either new or in very good condition and has not passed its sell-by-date. Please **no** bric-a-brac, old books or clothes or earrings.

Mince pies and Christmas biscuits can also be brought along on the day.

We also need help setting up on **Saturday 30th November at 10.00 am** and with the various stalls and serving tea and coffee on the day.

If you can help with any of the required tasks, please email [beagillmartin@googlemail.com](mailto:beagillmartin@googlemail.com) Tickets for the Mini Mart are 50p for an adult, children are free and will include Tea/Coffee and a mince pie or a piece of Stollen. Please remember to bring cash, especially coins, on the day. You might find the perfect Christmas presents there!

Please help us make the Mini Mart a success by donating goods, buying tickets, and attending the event.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> **Christmas Mini Mart** after Holy Mass (OLA)  
**Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)
- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 8<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Cake** after Holy Mass (SB)
- Tue 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)
- Tue 17<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month (except November 2024)
- **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## CKSC Fund-Raising Pre-Christmas Sale And Refreshments in the hall

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

### **The Solemnity of Christ the King**

You are invited to **tea, coffee and cake** in the hall following 11am Mass.

We will be selling excellent second-hand items, received earlier this year, for our church maintenance fund.

Donated Christmas items will also be on sale.

Take the chance to pick up some bargains for Christmas presents.

**Come and join others in celebrating our feast day!**

### **St. Brigid's Giving Tree**

"Our Giving Tree charity this year is the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project, which offers a free hot meal every Sunday to those in need within our community. It operates at two locations – Woolston & St. Denys.

The Giving Tree will have tags hanging on it with the name of a gift written on each tag. Please choose a tag from the tree, buy the gift, wrap it and put it under the tree with the tag securely attached. We have until the 3rd Sunday of Advent to do this.

Thank you very much in advance for your generosity.

## **Hedge End & West End October Collections**

Looseplate	826.85
Candles	89.37
Standing orders/other direct payments	1,627.50
Hall income	351.50
Church rent	320.00
Donations	10.00
Give as You Live	20.24

### **Second collections:**

CAFOD	500.83
World Mission	133.50

# SCRATCH Christmas Complete '24

Fighting Local Poverty

We are helping SCRATCH again this year to support local children at Christmas with:

- Books
- Board Games and Puzzles
- Teddies and other soft toys
- Age relevant toys (no guns or war type toys please)
- Chocolate and sweets (in their original packaging with a sale by date clearly shown of at least end Jan 25 and list of ingredients)
- Colouring books, pencils, pens and other stationery items
- Teenage gifts
- Gifts for babies and toddlers
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Wrapping paper and sellotape

These are Christmas gifts so secondhand items will only be accepted if they are "as new". Secondhand items can include **books** (no names written inside), **soft toys** (clean and in exceptional condition), **board games and puzzles** (complete, with boxes as new).

The dates we are collecting at OLA are:

- Saturday & Sunday Nov 23rd & 24th
- Saturday & Sunday Nov 30th & Dec 1st

The OLA Church Hall will be open for donation drop-off from **10 am –4pm** each day.

You can also donate online at [www.scratchcharity.co.uk](http://www.scratchcharity.co.uk) or by scanning the QR code.



## Caritas Vacancy

Are you interested in supporting your local community? Caritas is recruiting a **Community Development Officer** based in Southampton and/or Havant parishes to support people in need. This can be a part or full-time role, including flexible working.

Please visit <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/> for more details and how to apply.

## Sunday's Readings:

### Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.england/20241124/ma>  
[ss.htm](https://universalis.com/europe.england/20241124/ma)

### Reflections

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

### Diocesan eNews

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

### UK Catholic Newspapers

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

## The Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.*

*Amen*

## Advent Penitential Service

The Advent Penitential Service will be held:

- at St Brigid's Church
- on 13<sup>th</sup> December
- from 5pm -7pm.

## Faith on Fire

Our next meeting will be:

- on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

## HEWEB Churches Together "Wonderlab"

HEWEB Churches Together invites all 5 to 11 year olds to "Wonderlab" - an Advent Activity Morning on Saturday 14th December at St. Luke's Church Hedge End. 9.30a.m. to midday.

Sign up your child to experience a new way of telling the most beautiful & amazing story in the world. A journey through the Christmas story with hands-on science fun. Book on-line at: <https://buytickets.at/hewebholidaybibleclub/1447118> or contact Veronica Hoskins: 07847 475806.

Tickets £5 per child.