

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year C, Cycle 1)

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

*Advent, a Time of Preparation for the Lord's coming*

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, when the Church enters a short but magical season that prepares us for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The term Advent comes from two Latin words *Ad-ventus* or *ad-venire*, which simply means “to arrive” or “to come” respectively.” It marks the beginning of the Church’s liturgical calendar and the four-week period of preparation for Christmas. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us in Bethlehem is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our minds and hearts to await his second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of hope, of devout and joyful expectation. For us Christians and Catholics in particular, advent means a time of expectation and preparation for the Lord’s birth as the prophecy of John the Baptist reiterates: “a voice of one calling in the desert, prepare a way for the Lord ...” (Mk. 1: 3).

In the words of a famous prayer, the purpose of Advent, with its attractive symbols [the four candles and the wreath], prayers and readings, is to help us ‘to see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more closely’ (St Richard of Chichester). This season is designed to help us to appreciate more fully the significance of Christ’s first coming, and to make more room for him in our hearts now as we await his second coming. Advent is the time when we begin again our annual journey with the Lord, letting go of the negative baggage of the past, and opening our minds and hearts more fully to the Spirit of the Risen Christ present and active among us. Advent is a time when the Church invites us to cast aside ‘the clay-minted wages of pleasure’ and wake up to the wonder of God’s loving presence in the creatures he has made.

The first reading from Jeremiah reminds us that we should expect the fulfilment of God’s promises. The promise is about our deliverance, and the

restoration of our lost integrity which has been stifled by fear of the unknown. It is equally a time of restoration of our hope and faith.

How do we begin this preparation? St. Paul gives us a clue in our second reading when he says: “May he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God...when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.” St. Paul admonishes us to “conduct ourselves in the way that please God.” This is a call to strive for perfection. If it were not possible, Christ would not have demanded it from us.

Today’s gospel calls us to be awake and watchful. Therefore, this is a call for us to intensify and strengthen our spiritual and moral lives. This is because prayer purifies the soul and casts away all fears. It prepares and strengthens us in joyful hope.

May our Lord find us awake and ready when he comes in glory. So, with the psalmist let us proclaim: “To you, O Lord I lift up my soul.”

I wish each and every one of you a very grace filled Advent Season.

*Fr. Elijah*

**Countess Mountbatten Hospice**  
**Light up a Life 2024**

At the hospice in West End, Botley Road on **Sunday, 8 December, from 4pm To 6pm**, a heartfelt evening of music, readings and candle lighting.

This is a free event, although of course donations to support the hospice are welcome.

For further details and to book a place see [www.mountbatten-hampshire.org.uk](http://www.mountbatten-hampshire.org.uk) and click on *Support Us* and then *Light up a Life*.

Let us support our local Hospice who provide such a vital service and rely heavily on public funding.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (1<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*Kevin James Peacock RIP*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Birthday thanksgiving - thank you Lord for all the blessings - Clara Smallwood*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*For the people*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

### Mass Times for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *Funeral of Kenneth Clark*
- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB** *All deceased parishioners and clergy*
- Thu 5<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Dominic & Gertie*
- Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA** *For the wellbeing of Patricia Luff*
- 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)**

### 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.**

Tickets for the Mini Mart are 50p for an adult, children are free and includes Tea/Coffee and a mince pie or a piece of Stollen.

**REMEMBER TO BRING SOME CASH**

Donations for stalls, the tombola and raffle, such as good quality unwanted presents, gift sets, toiletries, chocolates, any alcoholic beverages, cards, wrapping paper etc. are still 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 on the day.

We also need urgently help with setting up on Saturday 30th November 10.00am and help 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).

Please help us make the Mini Mart a success this year, 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)

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-12pm **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-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)

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)

Thu 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12pm **Open Church** (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 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.

## 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.

## Infant Nativity Play – St Swithun Wells

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School will be performing an Infant Nativity play for any parishioners from local parishes who would like to attend. Seeing children perform a retelling of the birth of Christ is a special part of Christmas and you are very welcome to come and enjoy our Nativity.

It will be held on Friday 13th December at 10am and will be followed by refreshments. Please contact the school office if you would like to attend.

Email: [adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk)

Phone: 02380 266210

Address:

Hillcrest Avenue Chandlers Ford SO53 2JP

## Collection figures for CKSC (Oct 2024)

The figures for CKSC for October 2024 are as follows:

Loose Offertory	£447.50
Contactless Giving – Parish	£158.50
Standing Orders & Direct Debits	£2062.50
Church Maintenance (contactless giving)	£265.45
Hall Rent	£1,017.50
CAFOD (cash & contactless giving)	£208.88
World Mission (cash & contactless giving)	£80.42

# 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).

**Thank you for the donation received so far.** The last collection dates at OLA are:

- 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/20241201/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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)