

**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/>

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

8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

In contrast to Lent, Advent is not a season of rigorous penitence. As today's Scripture readings demonstrate, its dominant theme is joyful hope rather than penance. We are nevertheless urged to turn from our sins. This is echoed by John the Baptist's voice: "Make a path for the Lord." Straighten his paths (Lk. 3:4). It is impossible to separate the joy of salvation from preparing a path for the Lord. Today's readings serve as a reminder to get ready for the Lord's coming.

In our first reading, the Prophet Baruch proclaims a message of hope to the Jews who were living in exile in Babylon. The Exile (in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC) was a particularly traumatic experience for a people who thought of themselves as specially chosen by God. They had lost everything they held precious, their freedom and the things that gave them a sense of identity as a people: their homeland and Temple. Their most cherished hopes had been crushed. It seemed that God had forgotten or abandoned them. Psalm 137 captures their feelings of dejection and abandonment: 'By the waters of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Sion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps' (vv 1-2).

Baruch assures the exiles that God has not forgotten them, and that he will soon return to lead them back to their homeland and restore their fortunes. Thus, Jerusalem will once again become a city of joy, peace and integrity: 'Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God forever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you...: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven' (Bar. 5:1-3).

On his part, Paul encourages us to remain steadfast in good works and continue improving our ways of life until the "Day of the Lord" comes. It is important to note that we must be ready to make some sacrifices to encounter Jesus Christ and share in the joy that he brings. This entails preparing and purifying ourselves through prayer, charity, love, and reconciliation. Hence, Paul says: "...This will

help you to become pure and blameless and prepare you for the day of Christ..." (Phil 1, 8).

Our gospel passage from Luke introduces us to the figure of John the Baptist, the precursor of Jesus Christ. John is presented, in words taken from the prophet Isaiah, as a 'voice crying in the wilderness,' calling his contemporaries to repentance: 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth' (Lk. 3:4-5). The mountains we need to note today may be the mountains of indifference and complacency. And the valleys that we must fill in are the valleys of cynicism and fear of change.

Therefore, this season of Advent, as we prepare for the Lord's coming, let us join the psalmist to proclaim: "What marvels the Lord worked for us; indeed, we are glad" (Ps 125:3).

*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.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (8<sup>th</sup> December 2024)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*For the wellbeing of Patricia Luff*
- 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*

## Mass Times for 8<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> 11.00am. **SB** *Funeral of Jean Mason*

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**. *For the people*  
7.00pm **CKSC**

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB** *The Flynn Family & Friends*

Thu 12<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For Joseph Martin RIP of the  
36th anniversary of this death  
and Gerald Martin RIP*

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**

5-7.00pm **SB**. *Penitential Service*

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *Ann Marie Whitlock*

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA** *Sarah Barlex RIP*

11.00am **CKSC** *Olive Ashley RIP*

5.30pm **SB** *For the homeless*

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)**

## CKSC Giving tree for Advent

### Stella Maris Christmas Chocolate appeal 2024

Can you 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!

## New Evening Mass

It was realised that not everyone can manage to get to a 10am weekday Mass. So Fr Elijah is celebrating a new evening Mass on Tuesdays at 7pm. It is in CKSC church, but as with all our Masses, is opened to everyone.

This Mass will be taking place for a trail period only but will continue if it is well supported.

## 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.

## Funeral Mass

The funeral Mass for Jean Mason who passed away recently, will take place on Monday December 9th at 11 am at St Brigid's Church, West End.

## Advent Penitential Service

The Advent Penitential Service will be held:

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

## 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.

## 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.

## CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

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

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

- 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)  
Advent Penitential Service 5-7pm (SB)
- 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)
- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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.

### *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*

### CKSC Preparing a welcome to our church this Christmas

Monday morning at 10 am on 23<sup>rd</sup> December we shall be putting up the crib and decorating the church for Christmas. It would be wonderful if you could give some time to come and help us.

Everyone is welcome.

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.

### **Hedge End & West End Fundraising**

A huge, big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped to make the **CHRISTMAS MINI MART 2024** a big success by helping, donating, and buying goods and most of all for coming and joining in.

Many thanks for the many items that were donated and to the dedicated team of helpers for setting up and running the event.

We raised **£ 511.43**, a very good result. A very heartfelt thank you to everyone involved.

### **SCRATCH Christmas Complete 2023**

Grateful thanks to all those who helped with the collections for SCRATCH over the last two weekends. Many toys were donated from parishioners and the local community and SCRATCH asked us to pass on their grateful thanks.



### **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.

### **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.

### **Southampton City Mission Food Banks**

Huge thanks to all of you in our three churches for your very generous donations to Southampton City Mission food banks, after my recent appeals in each church. Please try to carry on with your generosity through the winter months to come. Even if everyone just put one extra tin or packet a week into our collection bins in your church porches, we would be overwhelmed. Finally, Christmas/New Year are our times of most need so any extra help over the next few weeks would be very gratefully received.

Thank you all again. - John Murphy

### **Infant Nativity Play – St Swithun Wells**

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. St 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

### **Sunday's Readings:**

#### **Daily Readings**

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20241201/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>

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

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