

**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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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year C, Cycle 1)

15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## ***“REJOICE ALWAYS”***

Today is Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday and the theme of joy naturally dominates the liturgy. In the opening prayer we prayed to the Father to help us experience the joys of the salvation Christ has won for us ‘and celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.’ In our first reading the Prophet Zephaniah calls on the people of Israel to let go of all restraint and give full voice to their joy that the Lord, their God, is in their midst as a victorious warrior: ‘Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem’ (Zeph. 3:14). The responsorial psalm repeats the exhortation of Zephaniah and, in our second reading, St. Paul tells the Christian community in Philippi that he wants them ‘to be always happy in the Lord’ (Phil. 4:4). The Gospel passage summarizes the message of John the Baptist, announcing the imminent arrival of the Messiah, and exhorting the people to prepare for his coming by practicing justice and helping the poor.

Too often Christianity has been presented as a rather grim and joyless affair, confronting us with guilt and failure. But the reality of sin and failure is merely the preface of the Christian story, not its centre piece. This is the victorious love of God that forgives, heals and makes everything new. It is the experience of this love that is the source of our joy. But what is this joy that is at the heart of the Christian message?

We think of joy very much in association with youthfulness, freshness, innocence. And it is true that joy keeps us young. A joyful person seems always youthful. Like the kiss of the sun on a flower, or a smile lighting up a child’s face, joy transforms. People who are joyful transform those around them. Joy is contagious. In the presence of joyful people, our hearts become lighter and the world around us seems so much brighter. However, Christian joy must not be confused with superficial cheerfulness. It is not the false hilarity of those who ignore the reality of suffering in the

world around them or avoid pain in their own lives. To quote the words of Timothy Radcliffe OP, ‘true joy is not the happy clappy jollity of those who go around slapping people on the back and telling them to be happy because Jesus loves them.’ No! Joy is rather, in the words of John Catoir, ‘the awareness of God’s loving presence within you.’ And this awareness is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

In today’s Gospel, there is a question posed three times: “What shall we do?” (Lk 3:10, 12, 14). It is raised to John the Baptist by three categories of people. Each of these groups questions the prophet on what must be done to implement the conversion that he is preaching. John’s reply to the question of the crowd is sharing essential goods. He told the first group, the crowd, to share basic necessities, and therefore says: “He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise” (v. 11). Then, he tells the second group, the tax collectors, to collect no more than the amount owed. And he tells the third group, the soldiers, not to extort anything from anyone and to be content with their wages (cf. v. 14).

Thus, John the Baptist exhort us, his listeners, to emulate particularly kindness, which is a balm in human relationships. Family life would be so much better if there were more kindness in our gestures, in our words, and above all, in the sentiments of our hearts. Nothing extinguishes the joy of being together more than a certain vileness in our behaviour. “A kind answer,” says Scripture, “calms wrath, but a barbed one brings ire” (Proverbs 15:14). “A kind mouth multiplies friends, and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings” (Sirach 6:5). A kind person generates fond feelings and admiration wherever he goes.

*I wish You all a very Joyous Sunday and a Blessed Week ahead.*

*Fr. Elijah*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (15<sup>th</sup> December 2024)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*Sarah Barlex RIP*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Olive Ashley RIP*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*For the homeless*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

### Mass Times for 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December

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

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *In thanksgiving for the life of  
Kenneth Clarke*
- 7.00pm **CKSC** *For the people*
- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB**
- Thu 12<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA** *For the people*
- 11.00am **CKSC** *Alan Hood*
- 5.30pm **SB** *For Jason Iron on his  
7<sup>th</sup> birthday*
- 6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

**Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tue–Fri)**

**Sacrament of Confession is available on request**

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

### 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 trial period only but will continue if it is well supported.

### Funeral Mass for Gerald Martin

The funeral Mass for Gerald Martin which is being held at CKSC on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.

### CKSC Giving tree for Advent

#### Stella Maris Christmas Chocolate appeal 2024

Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world to show 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 15<sup>th</sup> December. THANK YOU!

### Christmas Masses

#### Christmas Eve (Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> December)

- 5.30pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*5.30pm Carols followed by Mass at 6pm*
- 10.00pm **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*10pm Carols followed by Mass at 10.30pm*
- 12.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Vigil Mass*

#### Christmas Day (Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December)

- 9.00am **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*9am Carols followed by Mass at 9:30am*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Morning Mass*

#### Christmas Mass Times in Woolston & Netley

##### Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm Family Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston

##### Christmas Day

- 9.00am Mass - Annunciation Church, Netley
- 11.00am Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston

### 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. Please choose a tag from the tree, buy the gift on the tag, wrap it and put it under the tree with the tag securely attached. We have until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent to do this.

Thank you very much in advance for your generosity.

### Our Lady of the Assumption Christmas Giving Tree

Our Christmas Giving Tree this year will support POITIERS CARE, a Catholic charity providing food to anyone 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 15<sup>th</sup> December**, to ensure Poitiers have time to distribute the gifts in time for Christmas.

Thank you for your support.

### 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)

Fri 13th 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 **Carers Group** (OLA Hall)

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

10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

No **"Growing in Faith"** today (OLA)

Thu 26<sup>th</sup> No **"Prayer Group"** today (CKSC)

No **"Open Church"** today (OLA)

Fri 13th 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Cake** after Holy Mass (SB)

Tue 31<sup>st</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Thu 2<sup>nd</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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE – CKSC PARKING

Southampton City Council have notified us that they plan to implement a **tariff for the car park** on Commercial Road/Haynes Road in Bitterne (the main one used by parishioners).

You are able to object and provide a comment to these plans by going to:

<http://transport.southampton.gov.uk/tro>

and clicking:

[Suburban Off-Street Parking Places\) \(Amendment 5\) Order 2024](#)

then click on the blue button to make a comment.

Please help support the church and community by objecting to these plans, as they include imposing a fee during Mass times on Sundays. **Deadline for this is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.**

Below is a draft response you are welcome to use to assist you in making a response.

*"The car park on commercial road is used by parishioners at Christ the King & St Colman on Sunday mornings, almost exclusively, and has been for many years. This church serves Bitterne, Sholing, Thornhill, Midanbury and Hightown and so travel by car is essential for many of our parishioners, particularly elderly and families. This restriction would increase street parking in the local area, and have a negative impact on the local community both within and outside of the church. We would ask that you reconsider this restriction, especially for Sundays. We have masses in our church from late morning until late evening."*

## CKSC Weekday Masses in Sacristy

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

### CKSC Collection Figures

The figures for CKSC as follows:

Loose Offertory	£346.24
Contactless Giving – Parish	£309.76
Standing Orders & Direct Debits	£2026.67
Church Maint. (cash/contactless)	£3,818.33
Hall Rent	£1,077.50
Polish community (Oct/Nov)	£800.00
Bamenda Sunday (cash/contactless)	£328.79
World Mission (cash/contactless)	£10.00
Gift Aid reclaim	£1,083.63

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

Monday afternoon at 2pm on 23rd 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.

All are welcome.

### 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.

### 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)

### Christmas Collection for Fr Elijah

The Christmas and Easter collections are a good way for parishioners to thank Fr Elijah for his ministry in our Parishes. These collections form a significant part of his income. There are two easy ways you can make your Christmas offering.

#### The collection at Christmas Mass

Envelopes are available at all three churches.

Alternatively you can give online...

#### Online at Give as you Live

For Christ the King & St Colman

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-christ-the-king-and-st-colman-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2024>



Our Lady of the Assumption & St Brigid's

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hedger-end-our-lady-of-the-assumption-and-st-brigid-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2024>



**If you are a tax payer you can  
Gift Aid your offering to Fr Elijah**

### Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20241215/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>