

**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/>

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year C, Cycle 1)

5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## *“Guided by the Star of Christ”*

***Is. 60: 1-6; Ps: 71: 1-2.7-13; Eph. 3: 2-3.5-6; Mt. 2: 1-12***

Today we celebrate the solemnity of Epiphany, and in a most special way the day of the three kings who brought Jesus the very costly and symbolic gifts of Gold, frankincense and Myrrh, three gifts which signify Jesus’ kingship, priesthood and prophetic mission respectively. The term Epiphany is of Greek origin, epiphanien. It is a verb which means “to reveal,” or “to manifest”. It celebrates the many ways through which Jesus has revealed himself to us and our world. These include the three events that bring to light his mission and divinity: the visitation of the three kings or Magi (Mt. 2: 10-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mk. 1: 9-11), and the miracle at Cana (Jn. 2: 1-11). We can also add here the Transfiguration of the Lord (Mt. 17:1-8).

In these events, God reveals himself to us and make known His mission for mankind. Through the star, God guides the Magi to the manger, a journey which we can walk with the Magi as signifying our discipleship from our baptism through to life in Christ guided by His light. The light that shines forth upon us today is the light of life from which we ourselves must get our own light and reflect it unto others. So as the Lord’s star guided the Magi, so too it guides us and makes us into others stars to show the way to our neighbours that they may also meet Christ.

Today the Lord Jesus Christ further extends and expands the horizon of his love to us by not being selfish. He allows himself to illumine the darkness of our lives. The lesson in all of these is that we must also make our lives better and allow the goodness that flows from us help others. We must brighten our light so that others can see with it as Christ illumines our way and life this New Year with his own light, life, divine presences and counsel.

The gospel of today from Matthew is about the visitation of the three wise kings. They came to adore and offer gifts to the new born king, Jesus Christ. This gospel is full of many lessons for us to learn. First, guided by the star, the three kings came to offer Christ a genuine worship as the King of kings. Although they were kings in their own stead, they nevertheless acknowledge the supremacy of the Lord. This points to our dependence on God who is all powerful.

Second, along the way they were guided by the star but when they entered Herod’s palace, a symbol of darkness and sin, the star disappeared. This is how our journey to Christ unfolds. In virtue, we have Christ’s light for our guide and in sin, that light disappears. But the voice of God (CCC 27) does not stop echoing in our hearts calling us to conversion as it did the Prodigal son. This is why when the Magi left the sinful palace and embarked once more on the journey, the star, God’s light, reappeared.

Third, we must be ready to offer Jesus something. We must not appear before the Lord empty handed. The Magi presented gifts of Gold, frankincense and Myrrh. We may not have like to present, but we have so many other gifts which the Lords expects of us. We must ask ourselves today, what do I offer the Lord for his goodness to me? We can ourselves, the gift of good life, the gift of love, the gift of obedience, the gift of humility, the gift of peace to our families and world, and the gift of sacrifice for one another, the gift of forgiveness. Why not be generous to others as the three wise kings did to Jesus?

**I wish you all a very Fruitful Epiphany of the Lord**

*Fr. Elijah*

### The Epiphany of the Lord (5<sup>th</sup> January 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*Callaghan Family Intentions*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*For the people*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*For the intentions of Donald Hedges*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

### Mass Times for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January

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

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

**NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK**

- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA**  
11.00am **CKSC**  
5.30pm **SB**  
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 Tuesday 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, **except for this week as Fr. Elijah is taking a break**. 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.

### Baptism of Elianna Rose Thompson

We welcome Elianna Rose Thompson who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption in Hedge End on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December during the 9.15am Mass.

Please keep Elianna and her family in your prayers.

### 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.

### Hedge End and West End Monthly Income

Hedge End & West End Collections for November 2024:

- |                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| • Looseplate                      | 806.40  |
| • Standing orders/direct payments | 1602.50 |
| • Table tennis                    | 241.70  |
| • Hall income                     | 55.30   |
| • Church rent                     | 160.00  |

Second collections:

- |           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| • CAFOD   | 161.10 |
| • Bamenda | 680.60 |

### Faith on Fire

The next Faith on Fire we will meet on Wednesday January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

All secondary school aged people and older are welcome.

### 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.

### QUIZ NIGHT - Our Lady of the Assumption 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Please, come and join in with our New Year Quiz Night. Details are:

- Our Lady of the Assumption church hall
- on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January
- from 7.00pm (to form teams) ready for 7.30pm start.

Again, no increase in price!! Tickets £5.00 per adult and children are free.

Ticket price includes tea/coffee/squash and a Ploughman's Supper.

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks and also some cash for a fun raffle!

Tickets will be on sale at the churches from Sunday 12th January onwards. If you do not have the cash on Sundays to purchase tickets, please give your name and details of the people in your party attending so we have numbers, for both capacity and catering purposes.

Why not come along and start off the New Year with a fun Quiz with your Parish Family? We look forward to welcoming you

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Cake** after Holy Mass (SB)
- Tue 14<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> 7.00-8:30pm **Carers Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)
- Tue 21<sup>st</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)

### 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
- **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.

## 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.

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.”*

### **Further use for lectionaries**

Have you an unwanted missal now that we are using the new versions?

As a parish we would like to offer an opportunity to recycle any missals that are no longer in use. Many parts of the world are still using the 'old' versions of the lectionaries and the Sunday and weekday missals. Through the diocese we are in contact with a priest in Kent who will organise transport of old lectionaries and missals to Nigeria.

One of our parishioners has volunteered to drive any collected missals and lectionaries to Kent, to save individuals having to pay their own postage. If you are interested in giving your old missal to a good home in Nigeria, please leave your copy at the back of the church for collection by the end of January. Thank you.

Alternatively, you can send them to:

**Fr. Paschal Omono,  
St. Augustine's Catholic Church,  
Crescent Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LY**

Email: [paschalomono@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paschalomono@rcaos.org.uk).

Nigeria continues to use the Jerusalem Bible version of the Lectionary and Fr. Paschal suggests that redundant books, in good condition, would be much appreciated. He has storage space and does not need funds for the packaging and transportation costs.

Please email him for more details.

### **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.

### **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 Brigids**

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hed-ge-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/20250105/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>