

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)

Office: 2 Dean Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO18 6AP – Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am–1pm

Phone **023 8044 9088**, Email ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

19th January 2025

“Jesus Gives New Meaning to Our Lives”

Too often Christianity has been wrongly presented, as a rather grim and joyless affair, confronting us with feelings of guilt and failure. Fortunately, as today’s readings show clearly, Christianity is essentially a religion of unwavering hope, of new life and overflowing joy. It is a celebration of God’s unfailing love and mercy, best conveyed in the biblical image of a wedding feast or banquet. The opening lines of Pope Francis’s Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, captures this key message: ‘The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.’

The first reading of today’s Mass, taken from the prophet Isaiah, is a joyful proclamation of God’s plan to transform Jerusalem, devastated by the Babylonians, and reunite and transform the scattered and disheartened people of Israel so that all nations will see their integrity. ‘No longer are you to be named “forsaken”, nor your land “abandoned”, but you shall be called “My Delight” and your land “The Wedded” (Is. 62:3). This wedding image is repeated again toward the end of the reading: ‘for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding’ (Is. 62:4) – a wedding in which God will be the bridegroom and Israel the beloved bride in whom he delights.

Our gospel reading recounts the familiar story of the wedding at Cana in Galilee, when Jesus turns water into wine, ‘the first of the signs given by Jesus’ (Jn. 2:10). While this may be the first sign or visible manifestation of Jesus’ identity and messianic mission recorded in John’s Gospel, it is

the third epiphany of Jesus we have celebrated over the past fortnight. On Epiphany Sunday, we recalled the visit to Bethlehem of some wise men from the East, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and testifying to Jesus as the King of kings. Last Sunday, we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus by John in the river Jordan, when the Heavenly Father, by word and Spirit, attested to Jesus’ identity as his Beloved Son. Today, we recall Jesus’ first miracle, when he changes water into wine, testifying to himself as Son of God and letting his glory be seen so that his disciples believed in him (Jn 2:11).

The scale of the miracle at Cana is stunning. On the orders of Jesus, in response to his mother’s request, six enormous stone jars, capable of holding twenty or thirty gallons each, are filled to the brim with water, and changed into wine of the highest quality. This would be enough wine – about 800 litres – to make all the guests very happy for a year, not just one week – the normal length of a Jewish marriage celebration at the time of Jesus. The abundance of wine is a sign or symbol of the ‘new dispensation’ initiated by Jesus – a dispensation of ‘grace and truth’ (Jn. 1:17), of new life and overflowing joy. Isaiah’s prophesy of the messianic banquet (cf. Is. 25: 6-8) has arrived in the life and ministry of Jesus, who brings healing to the sick, gives hope to the hopeless, turns tears into joy, and changes death into life. An abundance of wine of the best vintage is the perfect sacrament of that fullness of life Jesus came to bring on earth: ‘I have come that you may have life and have it to the full’ (Jn. 10:10).

Fr. Elijah

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (19th Jan 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
For the people
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
In thanksgiving
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Mass Times for 21st – 26th January

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 21 st	10.00am	OLA	
	7.00pm	CKSC	
Wed 22 nd	10.00am	SB	<i>Callaghan family intentions</i>
Thu 23 rd	10.00am	CKSC	
Fri 24 th	10.00am	OLA	<i>Teresa & Roger Carrington RIP</i>
Sat 26 th	10.00am	CKSC	
Sun 27 th	9.15am	OLA	<i>For Donald Trump and the new administration</i>
	11.00am	CKSC	
	5.30pm	SB	
	6.00pm	CKSC	<i>Polish Mass</i>

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)

Special Sung Mass for Cameroon Priests in England to be held in Hedge End at 9:30am on Monday, 27th January

The priests of Cameroon currently working in England are having their quarterly meeting on **27th January**.

Father Elijah would like to invite parishioners from all three churches to join him for sung Mass lead by the priests of Cameroon in Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Monday 27th January starting with morning prayer at 9:30am then Mass at 10am.

Mass will be followed by tea and cake in Our Lady of the Assumption church hall afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend and your support would be greatly appreciated.

50th Anniversary

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

During 2025 there will be a number of events celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Hedge End, which was opened on 25th April 1975.



Please keep your eye on future newsletters so you don't miss out on the celebrations.



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.

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. It is in CKSC church, but as with all our Masses, is open to everyone.

QUIZ NIGHT - Our Lady of the Assumption 31st January 2025

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

- Our Lady of the Assumption church hall
- on Friday 31st 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)

January

Thu 16th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

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

Sun 19th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)

Tue 21st 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 23rd 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

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

Fri 24th 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)

Sun 26th **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)

Tue 28th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 30th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

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

Fri 31st **QUIZ NIGHT** (OLA) at 7pm

February

Sun 2nd **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (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 3rd 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 1st 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 2nd 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 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 Income (Dec 2024)

December 2024 income for Hedge End and West End:

• Looseplate	1065.92
• Standing orders/direct payments	1789.50
• Candles	42.35
• Closer to Christ	681.67
• Hall income	317.00
• Christmas mini-mart	531.43
• Church rent	160.00
• Donations	168.81

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.english/20250119/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>

PPC Meeting Thursday 30th January

The next PPC meeting will be held on Thursday 30th January. If there are any items which parishioners feel need to be discussed at this meeting, please could they email the parish office, or speak with one of the representatives.

CKSC Readers

We are looking for more Readers to join our rota for Sunday Mass at CKSC. If you would be interested in reading please see Elizabeth Diagboya-Izediuno after mass or email your contact details to the office and they will forward to Elizabeth.

Annual Service of Christian Unity at St John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Hedge End

You are warmly invited to join us at 3pm this **Sunday, 19th January**, for our annual Service of Christian Unity.

We are meeting at **St John the Evangelist Anglican Church**, 76 St. Johns Road, Hedge End, SO30 4AF.

Please come along to this short service (approx 45 mins) to celebrate our common Christian roots in fellowship, despite the diverse ways in which we worship. Come and meet fellow Christians from across Hedge End, West End and Botley.

For any queries, please contact Veronica Hoskins or Dot Caswell.

Jerusalem Bible lectionaries

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.

You can send them to:

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

Email: paschalomono@rcaos.org.uk.

Please email Fr. Paschal for more details.

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/hedge-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**

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