

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/>

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

12th January 2025

“The Baptism of the Lord”

Our Gospel readings for this liturgical year are taken from Luke. It is important to understand that Luke is talking to Gentiles (non-Jews) who don't have the same religious background as the Jewish people. Luke tries to make his writings relate to the experience of the Gentiles.

This particular Gospel depicts the baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist. Luke writes “The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Luke is telling us that through baptism, our sins will be washed away through Jesus' death and resurrection.

It shows God's love for us and that, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are given the promise of eternal life. On Pentecost we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. What a special gift it is knowing that Jesus will walk with us on our journey of life through the good and bad times.

As I was reading Luke's Gospel, I wondered why Jesus needed to be baptized because He is without sin. We are baptized to free us from the original sin we are born with. This allows us to have a new beginning in life. While reflecting on this, I realized that Jesus was baptized to show us His humanity at the beginning of His ministry. Baptism is a new beginning: we are freed of the original sin that resulted from Adam and Eve disobeying God.

The Sacrament of Baptism starts our life out with God being a central part of our life and gives us the opportunity to live the life God wants for us. The Baptism of Jesus is God's way of allowing His son to start his ministry on earth.

Through a dove, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus which signifies God's approval for Jesus and what He will do for us. Remember that God had to send His son to earth because the people were not listening to Him and doing his will.

Jesus' ministry asks us to emphasize repentance, renewal, and the calling to live a life dedicated to God's will. Jesus is on earth to help people to see and learn of God's love and to turn away from sin. When I taught confirmation, we asked the kids “Why did God make you?” The answer then and now is: to know Him, love Him and to serve Him and Jesus' ministry on earth helps us to understand this.

As we conclude the Christmas season, let's remember that “Jesus is the reason for the season”, as many times we attribute too much importance to the materialism of the season and tend to forget that. We should all take some time to reflect and ask ourselves, have we done our best to be God's voice on earth? We are all human and make mistakes, but we need to strive to follow God's call each and every day. It is empowering to know that God is with us and will walk with us each and every day. Use the gifts that God has given you to be a force for good. Use Luke's Gospel on the Baptism of the Lord to reflect on the meaning of your Baptism.

As Fr. Elijah is away the reflection this week is from:

[St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church](#)

The Baptism of the Lord (12th January 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
For Hugh MacDonald RIP
- 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 14th – 19th January

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 14 th	10.00am	OLA	<i>For the people</i>
	7.00pm	CKSC	
Wed 15 th	10.00am	SB	
Thu 16 th	10.00am	CKSC	
Fri 17 th	10.00am	OLA	<i>In thanksgiving for the life of Kenneth Clarke</i>
Sat 18 th	10.00am	CKSC	<i>For the people</i>
Sun 19 th	9.15am	OLA	
	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)*

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 opened to everyone.

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.

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.

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.



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.

Faith on Fire

The next Faith on Fire we will meet on Wednesday January 15th from 7.30pm - 8.30pm. All secondary school aged people and older are welcome.

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)

Fri 10 th	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 12 th	Tea, Coffee, Cake after Holy Mass (SB)
Tue 14 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 15 th	7.00-8:30pm Carers Group (OLA Hall)
Thu 16 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12pm Open Church (OLA)
Sun 19 th	Children's Liturgy during Mass (OLA)
Tue 21 st	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 23 rd	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12pm Open Church (OLA)
Fri 24 th	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 26 th	Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (CKSC)
Tue 28 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 30 th	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 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.

Stella Maris Christmas Appeal - Thank You

Thanks to the kindness and generosity, we have been able to achieve far more than we ever hoped, in supporting seafarers at Christmas.

The generous gifts have enabled us to make a truly special contribution to the lives of a great number of seafarers who were separated from home, friends, and family at this time.

The gifts have given a much-needed boost to our seagoing visitors to Southampton and south coast ports.

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/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>

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.

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.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese



@PortsmouthRC



Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



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

If you have news to share with the Diocese, contact:
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/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**