

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)

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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

26th January 2025

“The Good News Liberates Us”

God's Word is amazing! God's Word has great power! Scripture has the power to transform lives! The exhortations of this Sunday's readings encourage us to reflect on the meaning of the Scriptures for ourselves. The Scriptures are the Word of God, entrusted to us for our salvation. This Good News binds us together as the people of God and enables us to work together for God's kingdom.

In our first reading, after the people had worked together to achieve their goal and freedom, Nehemiah gathered them, and read the good news to them. After listening and meditating on the word of God, the people echoed “Amen!”

In our second reading, St. Paul encourages us to remain united and work together as one body of Christ. To achieve this goal, everyone must be considered important. There must be reconciliation, understanding, sincerity and mutual respect.

In today's gospel, Luke narrates his own “solid and ordered account” of the events about Christ. His audience is “Theophilus.” This Greek name simply means “lover or seeker of God.” Historically speaking, it is popularly believed that Theophilus simply refers to all who love or seek God. Therefore, this good news is for all of us who sincerely love God.

The words of Isaiah today serve as Jesus' manifesto. This is, the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah 61: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour...” This prophecy was made when the Israelites lived in slavery and misery in exile. So, by using these

same words as the basis of his ministry and mission, Christ announced His reign of peace, justice, freedom and love to all those suffering from all kinds of oppressions and injustice.

Like Nehemiah in our first reading, Christ proclaims the good news of the new era to all of us. The good news liberates us from two types of slavery. The first is self-imposed slavery. This results from personal sins and weaknesses in life, which make us spiritually blind and weak. It cripples our spiritual life and hardens our hearts against God and all that is good. This is the worst form of slavery, because it affects us both spiritually and physically. Only Christ can liberate us from this slavery. We can achieve this liberation by accepting the good news, and by seeking reconciliation with Christ and ourselves.

The other type of slavery is that which is imposed on us by others or society. These include structural, economic, and social injustices that do not allow us to live a fulfilled life in this world, even when we make all the necessary efforts.

Both are great sources of pain and burden to us. However, it is important to note that Christ strengthens to overcome all. So, with the psalmist today, let us exalt the Lord: “Your words are spirit, Lord; they give life.”

Fr. Elijah

Baptism of Winifred Michelle McDonagh

We welcome Winifred Michelle McDonagh, daughter of Martin and Ellie McDonagh, who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption in Hedge End on Friday 31st January during the 10am Mass.

Please keep Winifred and her family in your prayers.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (26th Jan 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
For Donald Trump and the new administration
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
For all lonely people
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)

Mass Times for 28th – 2nd February

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Mon 27 th	10.00am	OLA	Mass in HE with priests of Bamenda
Tue 28 th	10.00am	OLA	<i>For the people</i>
	7.00pm	CKSC	
Wed 29 th	10.00am	SB	
Thu 30 th	10.00am	CKSC	
Fri 31 st	10.00am	OLA	<i>Mass and Baptism of Winifred Michelle McDonagh daughter of Martin and Ellie McDonagh</i>
Sat 1 st	10.00am	CKSC	<i>Dermot Dunleavy & Kate Morris</i>
Sun 2 nd	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)

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

Events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Hedge End, which was opened on 25th April 1975, will include:

25th April **Anniversary Mass** at 7pm

followed by refreshments in hall

17th May **Barn Dance**

at West End Parish Centre at 7pm

16th August **Parish Summer Picnic**

at Manor Farm

25th July 50th Anniversary **Summer Quiz**

Last Tuesday Evening Mass (28th Jan)

The introduction of an evening weekday Mass has not proved popular so it has been decided that Tuesday 28th January will be the last 7pm Mass.

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.

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

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 7pm **QUIZ NIGHT** (OLA)

February

Sun 2nd **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)

Tue 4^h 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 6th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

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

Sun 9th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (SB)

Tue 11th 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 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.

Our Lady of the Assumption

First Friday Soup (7th Feb)

The first "**First Friday Soup**" for 2025 is at **12.00 noon on FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY** in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.

What could be nicer for lunch, on a chilly winter's day, than a bowl of delicious home-made soup with crusty bread.

There is no charge however, donations for CAFOD will be gratefully received.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Thanks and God Bless

Helpers/Volunteers Party

There will be a **Helpers/Volunteers Party** on Thursday, 20th February at 7pm in the Church Hall in Hedge End.


Everyone who is helping in church as a volunteer is invited to come along and enjoy an evening together. Please bring along family and friends, the more the merrier. Please also bring a plate or dish of finger food to share.

A list for suggestions for food and nibbles to bring will be at the back of both churches. Please come and join in for a get-together before Lent starts.

Many thanks, Beatrice

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If you have news to share with the Diocese, contact: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.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.

Second Collection for St. John's Cathedral 26th January 2024

Canon James McAuley, Cathedral Dean, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, writes:

Since I became Dean of our Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist in September 2022, the parish has had to pay for the emergency repair of three serious roof leaks, as well as the replacement of two failing flat roofs. The cost of these repairs was met from parish funds.

In 2023, the 120-year-old West Window had to be shored up, removed and completely restored to prevent its imminent collapse. So far, generous donors from the parish and from across the diocese have contributed £84,130 of the £90,100 cost of repair.

Over the next few years to the roof, windows, heating, and electrical systems at an estimated cost of £2 million plus VAT.

I appeal to you to support the Second Collection for the Cathedral on 26th January. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us.

Online donations can be made at::

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/st-johns-cathedral-second-collection-2025>

or by scanning the QR code.



Faith on Fire

Our next session will be on Wednesday 26th February at 7.30pm in Christ the King and St Colman church. All those of secondary school age are welcome.

Come and chat about your faith and how it impacts your daily lives. Nothing is vetoed, your feelings and thoughts are yours. You are not expected to be holy, just be yourselves.

Come and give it a go!!

Deirdre at fairmans@ntlworld.com

CAFOD Meeting – 14th February

CAFOD meeting on Saturday 15th February from 10:30am to 1:30pm at St Margaret Mary Church Hall Middle Road Park Gate SO31 7GH. Please join us to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya.

Everyone is welcome and please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers as a simple lunch will be provided by emailing Jo on jlwry@cafod.org.uk.

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20250126/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>

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