

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

2nd February 2025

“A Light of Revelation for all People”

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which occurs forty days after our celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The feast is also known as Candlemas Day because the blessing and procession of candles is included in the Mass. Jesus Christ is the light of the nations, ‘the light to enlighten the pagans’ (Lk 2:32). That is why we have the blessing and procession of candles on this day.

The Presentation of the Lord brings to an end the celebration of the Nativity — although Christmas officially ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In obedience to the Law, as was customary with first-born male children, Jesus was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem by his mother, Mary, and his foster father, Joseph.

Through the prophecies of Simeon and Anna, Jesus was revealed and acknowledged as the Messiah. A similar acknowledgement had occurred when the wise men knelt in adoration during their visit to the newborn infant Jesus (see Mt 2).

But Simeon’s prophecy to Mary about Jesus was distressing: ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected’ (Lk 2:34). The prophecy leads our thoughts away from the Incarnation, with an emphasis on God becoming human in Jesus Christ, towards the Paschal Mystery, which emphasises the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ.

Over the preceding centuries, many prophets had longed to see the Messiah. But they had

died without realising their greatest desire. Simeon and Anna were truly blessed to meet the Saviour of the world, even if the meeting was tinged with sadness because of their predictions about the future events in his life. We too are blessed because we are privileged to know that we have been saved from the consequences of our sins.

Simeon and Anna used their time well because they spent most of it in the Temple praising God. There is an important lesson here for us. It is relatively easy to spend time in God’s presence — simply because God is always with us. We are not required to be in the Temple or in a church or in another designated sacred space. We can be in God’s presence wherever and whenever we choose and, enlivened and encouraged by God’s presence, we can be witnesses to Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.

The tradition of lighting candles in our homes as a sign that Christ is the light of the world is one practical custom that we could easily initiate to focus our attention on him being at the centre of this wonderful feast and at the core of our lives.

Finally, on today’s feast, all families can learn the value of giving thanks to God for the gift of children and can seek his blessing on their lives and work. Enlightened by the brightness of Christ, let us re-dedicate ourselves to God, confident that he never abandons us.

Fr. Elijah

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (2nd Feb 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Thanksgiving for Frances Peacock on her 95th Birthday
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
For Doris Rice RIP
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)

Mass Times for 4th – 9th February

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 4 th	10.00am	OLA	<i>In thanksgiving</i>
Wed 5 th	10.00am	SB	<i>Isobel Baldwin RIP</i>
Thu 6 th	10.00am	CKSC	<i>For Agatha St Omer RIP</i>
Fri 7 th	10.00am	OLA	<i>For Donald Hedges, Celebrating his 74th birthday (on the 10th)</i>
Sat 8 th	10.00am	CKSC	<i>In thanksgiving</i>
Sun 9 th	9.15am	OLA	<i>Margaret & Cef Smith and Betty, Glen & Sally Palethorpe RIP – on the anniversary of their death</i>
	11.00am	CKSC	
	5.30pm	SB	<i>For Leo Brown RIP</i>
	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)

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

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**

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.

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

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.

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 2 nd	Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (CKSC)
Tue 4 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 6 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12pm Open Church (OLA)
Sun 9 th	Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (SB)
Tue 11 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 13 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12pm Open Church (OLA)
Fri 14 th	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 16 th	Children's Liturgy during Mass (OLA) Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (CKSC)
Tue 18 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 19 th	7.00-8:30pm Carers Group (OLA Hall)

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.

Collection figures for CKSC (Dec 2024)

Here are the figures for CKSC for December 2024:

• Loose Offertory	£436.05
• Contactless Giving – Parish	£349.11
• Standing Orders & Direct Debits	£2157.50
• Church Maintenance	£1689.72
• Hall Rent	£770.00
• Crib collection (contactless giving)	£54.07

Helpers/Volunteers Party

All Helpers/Volunteers within all churches are 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.

It is on 20th February at 7pm in the Church Hall in Hedge End.

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

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

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Prayer to St. Brigid

The 1st February marks the feast day of St. Brigid of Kildare (c. 451 – 525) the patron saint of the church in West End. Brigid was the daughter of an Irish clan chief before becoming a consecrated virgin. She is patroness of many things, including Ireland, poetry, learning, healing, protection, blacksmithing, livestock and dairy production.

Prayer to Saint Brigid

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

*May the mantle of your peace cover those
who are troubled and anxious,
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts
and in our world.*

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.

Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

*May we grow each day into greater wholeness
in mind, body and spirit.*

Amen.

Author unknown

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 jlewry@cafod.org.uk.

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20250202/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>

Mass for visiting Bamendan Priests (and Deacon) at Our Lady of the Assumption

Fr. Elijah is very grateful for the support he received from all three churches at the Mass celebrated with the visiting priests and deacon from Cameroon. It was a very special occasion with a sung Mass which included music from Bamenda (with Fr. Elijah on the guitar).

Thanks also to all those who provided refreshments afterwards. A special mention should perhaps be mentioned to Veronica who outshone everyone with her Bamendan costume.

