

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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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

9th February 2025

“Responding to God’s Call”

The theme of vocation, or discerning and responding to God’s call, runs through all the readings of today’s Mass. Despite their human frailty and inadequacy, which they openly acknowledged, the Lord chose Isaiah, Paul and Peter to be his messengers. Each of them had to learn that God’s call had nothing to do with their worthiness or lack of it. A vocation is a creative gift of God who does not judge by human standards nor depend on human excellence. If the Lord calls us, it is not because we are perfect, but because, through his Spirit, he will heal and strengthen us to manifest his glory and become his co-workers on earth.

Our first reading describes the call of the prophet Isaiah. Following an intense experience of God’s glory and majesty, Isaiah becomes acutely aware of his sinfulness and cries out: ‘What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of Hosts’ (Is. 6:5). Despite his sense of unworthiness, the Lord calls him to be his messenger, his prophet, after sending an angel to purify him with a live coal: See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?’ (Is. 6:7). Isaiah responds: ‘Here I am, send me’ (Is. 6:8).

Today’s gospel reading from Luke describes a similar acknowledgement of unworthiness, this time on the part of Simon Peter in the presence of Jesus. The context in which Peter becomes aware of being a sinner is significant. A professional fisherman, Peter and his companions had been fishing all night (the ideal time for fishing) and had caught nothing. When Jesus asks Peter to put out into deep water and lower the nets again, he must have been sceptical. Yet, he did as Jesus commanded and netted such a huge number of fish that the two boats were filled to sinking point.

Seeing this manifestation of divine power, Luke tells us that Peter ‘fell at the knees of Jesus saying, ‘Leave me, Lord: I am a sinful man’ (Lk. 5:8). Not only does Jesus not leave him, but he reassures him and called him to discipleship and mission: ‘Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will catch’ (Lk. 5:10). The passage ends with Peter and his companions leaving their boats, nets and livelihood behind and following Jesus.

In today’s second reading, taken from his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul reflects on his own calling to be an apostle. As a former persecutor of the Christians, he sees himself as unworthy to be called an apostle: ‘I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God’s grace that is what I am’ (1 Cor. 15: 9-10). Indeed, more than any of the apostles, Paul was aware that his vocation was a creative gift of God who does not judge by human standards or depend on human achievement. Addressing the Christian community of Corinth, he reminds them of this profound truth in these words: ‘Consider your call, brethren;... God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

Paul’s words were meant to encourage, not discourage the Christians of Corinth. And they are meant to encourage us and to heighten our awareness of God’s grace at work in our lives. The examples of Isaiah, Peter and Paul invite all of us to reflect on our own calling as disciples of Jesus, to acknowledge how, despite being weak and sinful, God’s grace continues to uplift and strengthen us.

Fr. Elijah

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (9th Feb 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Margaret & Ces Smith RIP (parents of Christine Palethorpe)
Betty, Glen & Sally Palethorpe RIP (parents & sister of Graham Palethorpe)
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For Graham Farrington
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Leo Brown RIP
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)

Mass Times for 11th – 16th February

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

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| Tue 11 th | 10.00am | OLA | <i>In honour of Our Lady & St Bernadette</i> |
| Wed 12 th | 10.00am | SB | <i>For the people</i> |
| Thu 13 th | 10.00am | CKSC | <i>For the people</i> |
| Fri 14 th | 10.00am | OLA | <i>For Isobel O'Rourke RIP- on her 3rd anniversary</i> |
| Sat 15 th | 10.00am | CKSC | <i>11th birthday of Thea-Rose</i> |
| Sun 16 th | 9.15am | OLA | <i>Joh & Kathleen Pearson RIP</i> |
| | 11.00am | CKSC | <i>Molly Tyrell RIP</i> |
| | 5.30pm | SB | <i>For Reolene D'Souza and family</i> |
| | 6.00pm | CKSC | <i>Polish Mass</i> |

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tue–Fri)

Sacrament of Confession is available on request

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

Baptism of Eve Betty Nickerson

We welcome Eve Betty Nickerson who will be baptised at St Brigid's Church at 11:30 am on Saturday 15th February.

Please keep Eve and her family in your prayers.

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 7 th	12pm First Friday Soup (OLA Hall)
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)
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)
Thu 20 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12pm Open Church (OLA)
Sun 23 rd	Tea, Coffee, Biscuits after Holy Mass (CKSC)
Tue 25 th	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.

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.

Helpers/Volunteers Party

Everyone who is helping in church as a volunteer is invited to join in at the **Helpers Party on Thursday 20th February at 7pm in Hedge End in the Church Hall**. This includes all of you who help out in any way. For example from being an altar server, cleaner, reader, welcomer, gardener, running a group/committee, sacristan, musician etc. etc.

Please bring along family and friends, the more the merrier.

If you can please bring a dish or plate of finger food to share. A list to write down your ideas or contributions for food is at the back of the church. Please come and join in for a get-together before Lent.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese



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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

QUIZ NIGHT success

Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the Quiz Night on 31st Jan. It was a really great evening and many thanks as always to Simon Grummitt for being our quiz master. Thanks also to those who provided the food, prepared the hall, served at the table, helped with the raffle and cleaned up afterwards.

Although we do not have the final figures for the money raised, it is expected to be well over £300.

We look forward to our Summer Quiz in July.

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

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.England/20250209/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>

Collection figures for Hedge End & West End

The collections for Hedge End and West End for January 2025:

• Loose plate	389.46
• Standing orders/direct payments	1,611.50
• Candles	42.35
• Closer to Christ	681.67
• Hall income	596.00
• Church rent	160.00
• Give as You Live online trading	15.06

Second collections

• Crib Offerings	44.55
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LENT RETREAT

*Our Hope:
'Anchor of the soul'*

7th - 9th March 2025

@ Verbum Dei Retreat Centre
Isle of Wight

For more info and to register, please contact:
verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

