

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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8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

2nd March 2025

“Goodness and Beauty – Virtues of the Heart”

Sirach 27:4-7

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45

On this 8th Sunday of the Ordinary Time, Year C, the church is reminding us of the values and characteristics that should define our life as followers of Christ. The Church exhorts us that physical reality might be misleading. Thus, our personalities are what define who we are. This encompasses the calibre of our speech, the knowledge, and the virtue we exhibit.

Therefore, today’s first reading advises us from judging people by their outward look rather than their inherent qualities. It says: “The test of a man is in his conversation. A man’s word betrays what he feels. Do not praise him before he speaks.” Despite this, it suffices to note that one needs a lot of wisdom to discern the truth in someone’s word. This is true, especially given that many people say beautiful words to please and deceive others while their hearts are far from the truth.

Christ says: These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (Mt. 15:8). Sometimes, they also tell us what we want to hear to make us happy for a moment and sad afterward. The wisdom, good counsel, and sincerity that come from the word of a Christ’s disciple is what sets him/her apart. It makes him/her: “A man or woman, in whom there is no guile or deceit” (John 1:47). Not only our words but our actions as Christian must edify, improve and encourage, others.

So, today we must ask ourselves, do my words edify or make any positive difference to others? Does it build or destroy the community?

In today’s gospel, Jesus also teaches us that the quality of our heart determines the quality of our

words and actions. He says, “A good person, out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, while an evil person, out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.”

As disciples of Christ, if we live according to the good news, our actions and words would be guided by it. Consequently, it will affect others positively. On the contrary, if we fill our hearts with flirtation, our words and actions would be filled with nothingness.

In the second reading, Paul reminds us that God has given us victory through Christ. For this reason, we must be of good cheer and never relent in doing good. Christ’s victory must not be in vain. Instead, it must sustain us in good actions as Paul tells us today: “Keep labouring at the Lord’s work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be struggling in vain. This is a call to perfection in all we say and do.

Finally, today, may our hearts be filled with joy for what God has done for us through Christ. Through Him, we are filled with goodness so that we can praise and thank God with a cheerful and sincere heart. Indeed, it is good to give thanks to the Lord for what he has done for us.

Fr. Elijah

Prayers for Brian Smith

Brian Smith, a much loved parishioner of St Brigid’s parish, died recently.

Please pray for Brian and his family members at this difficult time.

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (2nd March 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Gordon Hobbs RIP
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Thanksgiving for the new church
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Francis & Letitia Dias RIP
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Mass Times for 4th February – 9th March

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 4th 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*

-----**ASH WEDNESDAY**-----

Wed 5th 10.00am St Brigid's
4.30pm Christ the King & St Colman
7.00pm Our Lady of the Assumption
*7pm Ecumenical service at
Christ the King & St Colman*

Thu 6th 10.00am **NO HOLY MASS TODAY**

Fri 7th 10.00am **OLA**

Sat 8th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Sun 9th 9.15am **OLA** *For Donald Hedges,
celebrating his 74th birthday*
11.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
5.30pm **SB** *For the people*
6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

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

Sacrament of Confession is available on request

Funeral for Graham Farrington

Graham Farrington's funeral will be held at CKSC at 11.30am on Friday 14th March. Followed by burial at St Mary's Extra, and refreshments in the church hall.

Bishop's visit to CKSC to rededicate the Altar

On Sunday 2nd March, Bishop Philip will be visiting Christ the King & St Colman's to rededicate the altar after all the construction work has taken place.

In order for us to prepare for this day, Father Elijah would like to invite anyone who is willing and able to come along to the church on 1st March from 11am to help re-order the seating and get the church set up for Mass.

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

14th June **Summer Tea Party**

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.

Our Lady of the Assumption First Friday Soup - 7th March 2025

Please do come along and join us for a bowl of warming home-made soup with crusty bread lunch which will be served from about 12.00noon on Friday 7th March 2025.

There is no charge and all donations received go to CAFOD: last month we raised an amazing £120 for CAFOD. This is our Lenten Soup Day so please do come along and let's make a special effort for CAFOD this Lent.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Bishop's visit to CKSC on 2nd March

Flowers

Ahead of the Bishop's visit to Christ the King & St Colman, we will be having a collection on the 23rd February for flowers and decorations etc.

If you have a good eye for decorating, please do come along to help!

Refreshments

To mark this special occasion at CKSC we would be grateful for your donations of cake - to be served with refreshments in the hall after Mass.

Thank 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)

MARCH

- Sun 2nd **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)
- Tue 4th 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 **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (SB)
- Tue 11th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 13th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 14th 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
- Sun 16th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)
- Tue 18th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 19th 7.00-8:30pm **Carers Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 20th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 21st 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
- Tue 25th 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.

CANCELLED

Our Lady of the Assumption Day of Reflection for Lent Friday 14th March 2025

We are so very sorry that The Day of Reflection for Lent, arranged for 14th March with Sister Veronica OP, will not now be able to go ahead as it clashes with the funeral of Graham Farrington.

We are looking to see if an alternative day in Lent can be arranged, although this is looking very unlikely at the moment.

Once again, we are very sorry and we wish everyone a meaningful and blessed Lent.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese



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

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

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

OLA Lenten Study 2025 The Acts of the Apostles

“*Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom*” is a bible study revealing how the seeds of the Church took root through the work of the Holy Spirit. It follows the joys and struggles of the early Christians in living the life of Christ.

Marion Miller is facilitating this twenty-week course (divided into 4 manageable five-week blocks) starting at **19:30 on Thursday, 13th March 2025**. We will meet every Thursday evening to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of prayer and group discussion. Hedge End venue to be confirmed.

Purchase of a Study Set is recommended at a cost of £37.99 (to avoid p&p costs order through Marion by 3/3/25). For more information see posters at the back of the three churches or email Marion Miller on m.c.miller@hotmail.co.uk.

CKSC Collection figures – January 2025

Here are the figures for CKSC for January 2025

• Loose Offertory	£423.91
• Contactless Giving – Parish	£304.86
• Standing Orders & Direct Debits	£2,037.50
• Church Maintenance	£469.61
• Hall Rent	£1,245.00
• Polish Community donation	£600.00
• Crib collection (cash/contactless)	£161.94
• Portsmouth Cathedral (contactless)	£34.42

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese, each beginning at 7:30 PM and lasting for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events:

- Thursday 13th March (Children’s Liturgy and First Holy Communion)
- Thursday 20th March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)
- Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation and RCIA)

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>

Fr. Gaston

Easter Liturgy Planning Meeting

The Easter liturgy planning meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th March at 7.30 at CKSC.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer this year has been prepared by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands. The service for Hedge End, West End and Botley is to be held in

- **All Saints Church, Botley**
- **at 14:00 on Friday 7th March 2025**

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Churches Together in Bitterne Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service

You are all warmly invited to the Churches Together in Bitterne Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service which will be held in CKSC at 7:30pm on Wed 5th March. There will be tea and coffee served afterwards.

NOTICE: Closure of Bitterne Road East

Please be aware that from Monday 17th Feb, Bitterne Road East will be closed for seven weeks from Maybray King Way to Somerset Avenue. Therefore access to Christ the King & St Colman’s will only be via Commercial Street or Dean Road.

CAFOD’s Family Fast Day

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You’ll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope.

Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text

CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

Sunday’s Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20250302/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>