

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year C, Cycle 1)

9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## *“A Journey Towards Victory and Salvation”*

*Deuteronomy 26:4-10*

*Romans 10:8-13*

*Luke 4:1-13*

On Ash Wednesday we began Lenten pilgrimage with Christ. This journey of 40 days presents to us the opportunity of re-living the Paschal mystery of Christ and thus prepare us for Easter.

This first Sunday of Lent starts on a hopeful and joyful note. The readings bring into view concepts like faith, salvation and victory over sin. These remind us of the need to praise God for the great wonders he worked for our fathers in faith. Through our participation this Lent God is ready to extend the same wonders to us.

The first reading begins with a very brief account from Moses about how God delivered His chosen people Israel from bondage in the land of Egypt. Therefore, this reminds us of our own salvific journey. This Lenten season, we are on a journey to our salvation, and the hope of this salvation must sustain us throughout this season and beyond.

The second reading presents another dimension to this journey towards salvation. It presents faith as a necessary tool which must be manifested through our confessions. Without faith, it will be practically impossible to reach our destination. Faith in this case is the energy that motivates us as we march on. If along this journey this season, we become weary, turning to Jesus is the best option available to us. If we call upon Him in faith, we shall find the strength to continue. We cannot prevail in this journey by our own strength alone.

This season, therefore, we are to be mindful of the fact that temptations abound, just as our Lord was tempted by the devil in today's gospel. It is important to note that the tempter is always looking for a point of contact or weakness. This was why, once he realized that Christ was very

hungry, he felt it was an opportunity to use Him. However, the good news is that the devil was wrong, because Christ did not give him the chance to use Him. Hence, the devil cannot succeed with us too if we do not open avenues for him in our lives.

We must not give the devil any chance this season and in our entire lifetime. Therefore, let us close all the avenues such as hunger and thirst for sin, cheap popularity, vain glory, pride, and selfishness. These are obstacles to our spiritual growth, victory, and to our salvation.

As Paul writes: “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are mighty through God for pulling down Strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4). Our weapons this season must include a very strong faith in God, prayer, uprightness, good works, and the word of God. This is because: “We do not fight” (this season only), against flesh and blood. But, against...powers of this dark age...the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm” (Eph. 6, 10-12). Above all, we must allow the Holy Spirit to be in charge by being docile to Him.

Finally, trusting in the arm of our own flesh will not help us this season. This is because it might fail us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, this season, God is ready to do for us what He did for our fathers in faith in ancient times. So, together with the psalmist today, let us unceasingly implore the Lord saying: “Be with me, O Lord in my distress.”

*Fr. Elijah*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (9<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*For Donald Hedges, celebrating his 74th birthday*
- 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)

### Mass Times for 11<sup>th</sup> March – 16<sup>th</sup> March

**OLA** – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>OLA</b>	
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>SB</b>	
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>CKSC</b>	<i>Angela Reid RIP (on her 1st anniversary)</i>
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	<b>CKSC</b>	<i>Requiem Mass for Graham Farrington at Christ the King &amp; St Colman</i>
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>CKSC</b>	
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	<b>OLA</b>	<i>For the people</i>
	11.00am	<b>CKSC</b>	<i>John Whitlock</i>
	5.30pm	<b>SB</b>	<i>Hanora Reading (RIP)</i>
	6.00pm	<b>CKSC</b>	<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)*

### Second Collection for CAFOD (16<sup>th</sup> March)

CAFOD's family fast day is on the Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March with a second collection for CAFOD being made on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### Bishop's visit to CKSC - thanks

Thanks to everyone who came to Christ the King Church last Sunday for the rededication of the altar. Thanks also to everyone who helped on Saturday and those who provided refreshments afterwards.

### Our Lady of the Assumption Day of Reflection for Lent Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

We are pleased and delighted that we have been able to re-arrange our Day of Reflection for Lent to Friday 21st March 2025.

The day will be led by Sister Veronica Brennan, O.P., one of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, Sway. The theme is "The Holy Year: Pilgrims of Hope" and will reflect on scripture passages which speak of Christian Hope:

A full timetable of the day will follow shortly however, it will begin with Mass at 10.00am and we expect it will conclude at about 3.15pm following Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Lunch is included.

A suggested donation of £10 per person for the day will go to support the Sisters in their mission. If you are not able to stay for the whole day, please do, "dip-in and dip-out" as your schedule will allow. All donations for the Sisters will be gratefully accepted.

### 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.

### 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.

### Stations of the Cross Hedge End & West End

Stations of the Cross will alternate between Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Brigid's on Monday evening at 7.30pm during Lent on the following schedule:

10 <sup>th</sup> March: OLA	17 <sup>th</sup> March: SB
24 <sup>th</sup> March: OLA	31 <sup>st</sup> March: SB
7 <sup>th</sup> April: OLA	14 <sup>th</sup> April: SB

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (SB)
- Tue 11<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> 7.00-8:30pm **Carers Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Our Lady of the Assumption Church

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

25<sup>th</sup> April **Anniversary Mass** at 7pm  
followed by refreshments in hall

17<sup>th</sup> May **Barn Dance**  
at West End Parish Centre at 7pm

14<sup>th</sup> June **Summer Tea Party**

25<sup>th</sup> July 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **Summer Quiz**

16<sup>th</sup> August **Parish Summer Picnic**  
at Manor Farm

## 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](mailto: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. **The venue for Week 1 is OLA Church Hall.**

Purchase of a Study Set is recommended at a cost of £37.99. For more information see posters at the back of the three churches or email Marion Miller on [m.c.miller@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.c.miller@hotmail.co.uk).

**Easter Liturgy Planning Meeting**

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

**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/VkCdjlSWzA>

Fr. Gaston

**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.

**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 – 14<sup>th</sup> March**

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 <https://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.england/20250309/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>