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**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year C, Cycle 1)**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

## The Transfiguration of Jesus, a Boost to our Faith

The transfiguration of Jesus has captured the imagination of artists down through the ages. Among the many mosaics, paintings and icons depicting this scene, the Mosaic now covered with plaster boards at the back of the Christ the King and St. Colman Sanctuary, is a wonderful art dramatizing today's gospel. At the centre of the mosaic is the figure of Jesus transfigured. His right hand is raised in blessing and his eyes directed towards us. His clothes are shining white with gold edging. From His body, shafts of light emanate towards each of the five figures present: to his right, the prophet Elijah; to his left, Moses; around his feet, the Apostles John, Peter, and James. This wonderful mosaic captures the drama of the event: the three Apostles in a state of shock and bewilderment, while Jesus stands serenely above them, flanked by Moses and Elijah, who appear to be blessing him.

The story of the Transfiguration, as recounted by Luke in today's gospel, takes place at a critical moment in Jesus' ministry. He would soon leave Galilee behind and 'turn his face resolutely towards Jerusalem' (Lk. 9:51), where he would suffer the same fate as the prophets before him. As he had forewarned his disciples: 'The Son of man is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day' (Lk. 9: 22). He also reminded them that they, too, must share his cross and be prepared to lose their lives for his sake. (cf. Lk 9:23-24).

In moments of crisis, or when facing a major decision, it was Jesus' custom to withdraw to a lonely place and spend time, sometimes all night in prayer (cf. Lk 6:12-13). On this occasion Jesus takes with him three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, and goes up a mountain to pray. As he prayed, he was transfigured: the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became sparkling white' (Lk. 9:29). As on the occasion of his baptism by John, in this moment of luminosity, a voice from heaven confirms the identity and messianic vocation of Jesus. 'And a voice came from the cloud saying, this is my Son, the Chosen One Listen to him' (Lk. 9:35). This affirmation strengthened Jesus to face the dark and threatening future that lay ahead of him as he resolutely took the road to Jerusalem. For Luke, the

glorious manifestation of Jesus is inseparable from the shadow of the Cross. He tells us that the conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the Mountain was about 'his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem' (Lk. 9:31).

The transfiguration experience was important not just for Jesus but even more so for Peter, James, John, and all of us. Their eyes are opened to catch a glimpse of Jesus in his glory and their ears are opened to hear the divine confirmation of Jesus' identity as 'beloved Son' to whom they are called to listen. Captivated by the experience, Peter wants to remain on the mountain in the exalted company of Elijah, Moses and Jesus. However, this is not to be. The moment of illumination passes, and the three disciples are left with Jesus (cf. Lk. 9:36).

Lent is a time to remember such moments in our own lives and draw strength from them. It is a time to deepen our trust in the Lord like Abraham in our first reading: Abraham put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified' (Gen. 15:6). It is a time to withdraw to the mountain with Jesus, to listen to him, and let him lead us on our journey towards Easter, mindful, as our second reading tells us, that Jesus 'will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious bodies' (Phil. 3:21).

In these frightening and uncertain times, we need a light that illumines the mystery of life in depth and helps us to move beyond the struggles, the doubts and fears of our everyday lives. Like Peter, James and John, we are invited to climb up the mountain and contemplate the beauty of Christ transfigured, casting glimmers of light on the tapestry of our lives and helping us to interpret history in the light of Easter.

So, as we continue our Lenten journey, let us hearken to the exhortation of Pope Francis in his Message for Lent 2025 'to journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise, a hope that does not disappoint' (cf Rom. 5:5).

*Fr. Elijah*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (16<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*For the people*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*John Whitlock*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*Hanora Reading (RIP)*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

## Mass Times for 18<sup>th</sup> March – 23<sup>rd</sup> March

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

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

|                      |         |             |  |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|--|
| Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | <b>OLA</b>  | <b>NO MASS AT OLA TODAY</b>                      |
|                      | 10.00am | <b>SB</b>   | <i>Requiem Mass for Norah Brown</i>              |
| Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | <b>SB</b>   |  |
|                      | 1.00pm  | <b>OLA</b>  | <i>Giuseppe Critelli RIP</i>                     |
| Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | <b>CKSC</b> | <b>NO MASS AT CKSC TODAY</b>                     |
| Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.00am | <b>OLA</b>  | <i>Day of Reflection starting with Holy Mass</i> |
| Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.00am | <b>CKSC</b> |  |
| Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 9.15am  | <b>OLA</b>  | <i>For the people</i>                            |
|                      | 11.00am | <b>CKSC</b> | <i>For the people</i>                            |
|                      | 5.30pm  | <b>SB</b>   | <i>Belinnie &amp; Arif</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)*

## 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:

- 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

## Lenten Observances at CKSC

Before mass on Thursdays and Saturdays we will be praying the Stations of the Cross and not the Rosary.

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

Please come along on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March for a Day of Reflection for Lent. We are so pleased that the day will be led by Sister Veronica Brennan O.P., one of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, Sway.

The theme for the day will be “The Holy Year: Pilgrims of Hope” and will reflect on Scripture passages which speak of Christian Hope. The timetable is expected to be:

- 10.00am Holy Mass (followed by Tea/Coffee)
- 10.50am Introduction to the day - Gospel reflection “Waiting in Christian Hope (Simeon)”
- 11.30am Christ’s Mission of Hope - The anointing at Nazareth
- 12.00 noon Cheese Ploughman’s Lunch
- 1.00pm Bringing hope to others in sickness (Leper and the Paralysed Man)
- 1.50pm Short Comfort Break
- 2.00pm Finding Hope in eternal life (Resurrection-Lazarus)
- 3.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 3.30pm Departures

There will of course, be opportunities throughout the day for discussion and questions.

A cheese Ploughman’s Lunch will be provided.

If you are not able to stay for the whole day, please do, “dip-in” and “dip-out” as your schedule will allow.

A donation of £10 per person would be gratefully appreciated which will go to support the sisters in their mission.

We look forward to sharing faith with you.

God Bless.

## 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.

## 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

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)

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)

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)

### APRIL

Tue 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12pm **Open Church** (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 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.

## 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

## 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 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

## **Our Lady of the Assumption THE BIG CLEAN – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

Please spare an hour to come and make the church and grounds spotless in time for Easter and our church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### **Hall and church cleaning**

- from 10am to 1pm

### **The church grounds**

- 10am onwards

Please come along to help tidy, do some weeding, prune bushes, plant flowers, etc.

Thanks as always for your help.

## **Dare to Hope**

During Lent we will be following the Programme written by the Dominican sisters at Sway during our Thursday morning Prayer sessions 10.30-12 noon.

To see more just click [Dare To Hope](#) and come and join us

## **Baptism preparation course**

The next baptism preparation course will be run on Sundays 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm in Christ the King & St Colman's church hall. If you are interested in having your child baptised and attending the course, please contact the parish office to let them know.

## **Easter Liturgy Planning Meeting**





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

## **Collection figures for Hedge End/West End for February 2025**

Collection figures for February 2025 for H/E and W/E:

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| • Looseplate                      | 1,160.97 |
| • Standing orders/direct payments | 1,606.50 |
| • Table tennis                    | 193.00   |
| • Hall income                     | 68.00    |
| • Fund raising - Quiz night       | 456.50   |
| • Church rent                     | 160.00   |
| Second collections                |          |
| • Cathedral                       | 113.15   |
| • Racial justice                  | 18.50    |
| • CAFOD                           | 120.00   |

## **Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese**

-  @PortsmouthRC
-  Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
-  @PortsmouthRC
-  <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

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

[communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## **NOTICE: Closure of Bitterne Road East**

Please be aware that from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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.

## **Sunday's Readings:**

### **Daily Readings**

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