

**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)

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

30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## Learning from the Compassionate Father

*Joshua 5:9a, 10-12    2 Corinthians 5:17-21    Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called “Laetare” Sunday, the Latin word for “Rejoice.” This Sunday is marked by relaxation from the penitential character of the Lenten season. Today serves as a moment of joyful anticipation within the penitential season, signaling the approaching celebration of Easter. The liturgical readings for this day, centre around profound themes of reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transformative power of God’s mercy.

The First Reading, from the Book of Joshua (5:9-12), recounts the Israelites’ arrival in the Promised Land after their long journey through the desert. Here, they celebrate the Passover and partake of the produce of the land, marking the end of manna. This moment signifies not just a physical entry into a new land but a profound transition from their past hardships to a renewed relationship with God, free from the ‘reproach of Egypt.’

In the Second Reading, from 2 Corinthians (5:17-21), Paul emphasizes the concept of becoming a ‘new creation’ in Christ. He highlights that through Christ’s reconciling work, believers are entrusted with the ‘ministry of reconciliation.’ This passage underscores the transformative power of God’s forgiveness, urging us to embody and extend this reconciliation in our own lives.

The Gospel reading from Luke (15:1-3, 11-32) presents the Parable of the Prodigal Son, a narrative that epitomizes divine mercy and forgiveness. It tells of a father’s unconditional love and readiness to forgive his repentant son,

illustrating the boundless compassion God offers to all who seek reconciliation.

Collectively, these readings invite us to reflect deeply on our personal journeys of faith. They challenge us to recognize shades in our lives where we may be estranged from God or others and encourage us to embrace the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation. As we meditate on these scriptures, we are called to open our hearts to God’s transformative mercy, allowing it to renew us and guide us toward a more profound communion with Him and our community.

Today’s gospel challenges us to ask ourselves: Do I really believe in the God of infinite mercy, the God revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus, and the supremely loving Father of the Prodigal Son? Then, I can cherish the attitude of the prodigal son in making dramatic decisions in my life in Christ. “I will leave this place and go back to my Father...” Consider going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an individual, a family or with a group. Maybe you want to write a card or an e-mail or a text message to someone who made life a bit unhappy for you, and tell them you love them, just as the merciful father loved his young son. You can also pray for yourself that you may have the grace to practice the virtue of the Merciful Father, whose love is boundless.

I wish you all a Blessed Sunday.

*Fr. Elijah*

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (30<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*Mary Holen (nee Roddick) RIP*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Pearson & Callaghan Families*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*Private intention*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

### Mass Times for 1<sup>st</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> April

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

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

**SB** – St. Brigid (West End)

Tue 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	<b>NO MASS IN HEDGE END TODAY</b>	
	11.00am	<b>SB</b>	<i>Requiem Mass for Brian Smith</i>
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	<b>SB</b>	<i>Pearson family &amp; deceased relatives</i>
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	<b>CKSC</b>	<i>For the people</i>
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>OLA</b>	<i>For the people</i>
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>CKSC</b>	
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	<b>OLA</b>	<i>Betty &amp; Wallace Ward (RIP)</i>
	11.00am	<b>CKSC</b>	<i>For John &amp; Berenice Adams RIP</i>
	5.30pm	<b>SB</b>	<i>For the repose of the soul of Guido Camilleri, Francis, Antonia, Doris and Elsie</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:

- 31<sup>st</sup> March: SB
- 7<sup>th</sup> April: OLA
- 14<sup>th</sup> April: SB

### Penitential Service

The penitential service will take place

- at Christ the King & St. Colman Church in Bitterne
- on 11<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm

### Easter Triduum & Penitential Service

#### EASTER TRIDUUM

#### 17<sup>th</sup> April HOLY THURSDAY

8.00pm CKSC, Bitterne  
followed by Watching until 11.00pm

#### 18<sup>th</sup> April GOOD FRIDAY

3.00pm The Passion CKSC, Bitterne

#### 19<sup>th</sup> April HOLY SATURDAY:

8.30pm Vigil Mass OLA, Hedge End

#### 20<sup>th</sup> April EASTER SUNDAY

9.00am Mass St Brigid, West End  
11.00am Mass CKSC, Bitterne

### 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.

### Lenten Observances at CKSC

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

### Jubilee of Hope Companion Booklets

Jubilee of Hope Companion Booklets are available in all three churches. These are free, with a suggested donation of £1 to cover the cost to the Parishes.

### 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)

Tue 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (SB)

Tue 15<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> 7.00-8:30pm **Carers Group** (OLA Hall)

Thu 17<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

## Collection figures for CKSC for February

The February collection figures for CKSC are:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| • Loose Offertory                               | £364.87   |
| • Contactless Giving – Parish                   | £237.98   |
| • Standing Orders & Direct Debits               | £1,942.50 |
| • Church Maintenance                            | £364.02   |
| • Hall Rent                                     | £1,192.50 |
| • Polish Community donation<br>(Jan & Feb 2025) | £800.00   |
| • Racial Justice<br>(cash & contactless giving) | £47.23    |
| • Portsmouth Cathedral<br>(contactless giving)  | £36.85    |

## **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

## **Significant Marriage Anniversaries**

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th wedding anniversary or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on Saturday 21st June at 11am.

This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.





Please contact your parish secretary or email [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to request a form to complete and return.

To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a COPY of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you return the form.

Again, if you have no access to the internet you can post a COPY along with completed form by post to the following address:

St Bede's Parish Office  
Popley Way  
Basingstoke  
RG24 9DX

## **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 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.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Clergy Assistance Fund**

The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team which looks after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy (spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice). It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals. It looks after the junior clergy, the overseas clergy and especially the retired clergy.

## **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/20250330/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>