

## **Humility in Suffering and Service**

**Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22: 14 – 23:56**

Today, Palm Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week, the high point of the Church's year, climaxing in the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday (Jesus institutes the Holy Priesthood, the Holy Eucharist, and washed his disciples' feet as a lesson for humility); Good Friday (Jesus dies on the Cross), and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (Jesus rises from the dead). Today the Church celebrates the entry of Christ into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery. This Sunday is thus called Palm or Passion Sunday. While Palm Sunday signifies royalty and triumph, Passion Sunday signifies both suffering and love. By freely going to Jerusalem, Christ demonstrates his humility and willingness to save us. Two gospels are proclaimed during today's Eucharist. The first, during the procession with palms, is taken from St. Luke and recounts Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding on a borrowed colt. He is greeted joyfully by the crowds, who spread their garments on the road before him and acclaim him with the words: 'Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!' (Lk. 19:38).

During the second part at the Liturgy of the Word, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in full, this year from the Gospel of Luke. We will hear these same events once more on Good Friday, when the passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of John will be proclaimed. Why does the Church give so central a place in its liturgy to the passion and death of Jesus on the Cross? Why do we continue to remember in all their shameful and gory details the humiliation and crucifixion of the one who was Love-Incarnate, the one who came on earth only to bring healing, forgiveness, and peace? It was surely not because this was the price demanded by the Father for our sins. Only a sadist would demand such a price, and God, far from being a sadist, is Love itself. Nor does Jesus deliberately court his own destruction. He did not seek the Cross, though he did embrace it freely as he discerned that the inevitable outcome of his mission of love would involve being handed over to his enemies and be put to death: 'Now it happened that as the time drew near for him to be taken up, he resolutely turned

his face towards Jerusalem' (Lk. 9:51). Jesus' suffering and death shows us with startling clarity what happens to self-sacrifice in a world where hatred and violence prevails. Jesus might have avoided the Cross by turning aside from his mission of proclaiming and inaugurating God's reign of justice, peace, and love. And this he could not and would not do. To reveal the full extent of God's love for us, he had to endure suffering and death.

A very important lesson we may learn from all these is that, as life unfolds it presents us with its different dimensions. The same people who sing our praise in good times might be the same people to castigate us in future. Today, the same people applauding Christ by singing: "Hosanna to the son of David," might equally be the same people to shout: "Crucify him!" This is the mystery and dialectics of life. It is a mystery because at times understanding it is beyond our imagination. It is dialectical because these two aspects of life help us to understand who we truly are, and what we mean to people. In all of these, the lesson for us today is that humility is very important in all circumstances of life. This includes both at good and bad times. Christ was strong, but he humbly became weak for our salvation. He taught us that true power lies in sacrifice and service. He also taught us that humility is one of the most important virtues we need for our service and mission.

As we prayerfully recall the memory of Jesus' passion and death, we profess our gratitude for the love that allowed Jesus to be 'led like an innocent lamb to the slaughter.' We express our solidarity with all the victims of violence in our world today: the people of Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Northern Nigeria, Cameroon, etc., and especially the people of Ukraine. Let us pray that, like Jesus, we may be active witnesses to his transforming love in our violent world.

*Fr. Elijah*

### **Palm Sunday (13<sup>th</sup> April 2025)**

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*David Grummitt RIP*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Josephine & Michael Shepherd RIP*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*For the people*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

### **Mass Times for 15<sup>th</sup> April – 20<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 15 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | <b>OLA</b>  | <b>NO MASS TODAY</b>   |
|                      | 11.00am |             | <b>Chrism Holy Mass at Cathedral</b>                         |
| Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | <b>SB</b>   |  |
| Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> | 8.00pm  | <b>CKSC</b> | <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br><i>Callaghan family intentions</i> |
|                      |         |             |  |
| Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> | 3.00pm  | <b>OLA</b>  | <b>Good Friday</b>   |
| Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | <b>CKSC</b> | <b>Vigil Holy Mass for Easter</b>                            |
|                      |         |             |  |
| Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> | 9.15am  | <b>SB</b>   | <i>For the people</i>  |
|                      | 11.00am | <b>CKSC</b> | <i>Connie Key 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).

### **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.

### **OPEN CHURCH at St. Brigid's**

For a trial period, St Brigid's will be open for quiet prayer on Fridays at 5.30-6.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> April, with a mixture of silence and quiet reflective music. Why not pop in, and pray away the stresses of the week?

### **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 (click [Dare To Hope](#)).

### **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**

#### **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 Sunday 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.

### **Bitterne Church Parking**

With the extra numbers attending our Easter services can you please leave the church car park free to be used by those with limited mobility.

If you decide to park in the Commercial St car park (by our church hall) you now need to pay 50p per hour between 8AM and 8PM.

### **Easter Vigil Parking at Hedge End**

There are parking cameras in St John's Car Park (behind the Post Office) and the Co-op Car Park.

Parking in these car parks is limited to 2 hours only and you will be fined if you overstay.

Parking is free in the car park which is behind the shops opposite The Barleycorn Pub (behind where Barclays Bank was on the other corner at the traffic lights).

There are also side roads very close to the church: eg: Yardley Road.

### **Stations of the Cross (Hedge End/West End)**

The last stations of the cross this Lent will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at St. Brigid's Church in West End.

## CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

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

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

**SB** – St. Brigid (West End)

- 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)
- Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)  
5.30pm-6.30pm **Open Church** (SB)
- Tue 29<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (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 Brigid's (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

**Southampton Council of Faiths**  
**presents**

**Faith Reflections on**  
**End of Life Care and Assisted Dying**  
**King Edward VI School, Wilton Road,**  
**Southampton S015 5UQ**  
**7.30-9.00pm, April 22nd 2025**

Doors will open at 7.00pm

Parking available

Chaired by Rt. Hon Darren Paffey MP with contributions from:

- Prof Fiona Woollard (Southampton University Philosophy Dept)
- Mr Tejalkumar Chordiya (Jainism)
- Dr Harjeet Singh Virk (Portsmouth Hospitals University Trust - Sikhism)
- Dr Aiman Alzetani (SUHT - Islam)
- Prof Julian Hughes (Bristol Medical School – RC)
- Rev Dr Ben Kautzer (Parish Priest - CofE)

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/mzv9xa9f>

Suggested donation £5 towards costs & donation to The Mountbatten Hospice.

## Bullet points from Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting March 2025

- Successful completion of Eucharist ministry training, Eucharistic ministers will be formally commissioned at the Maundy Thursday Service at Christ the King & St Colman.
- Easter Penitential service 5pm 11/04/25 CKSC
- EASTER TRIDUUM:
  - Holy Thursday: CKSC 8.00pm followed by Watching until 11.00pm
  - Good Friday: 3.00 The Passion CKSC, Bitterne
  - Holy Saturday: 8.00pm Vigil Mass OLA, Hedge End
- EASTER SUNDAY:
  - 9.00am Mass St Brigids, West End
  - 11.00am Mass CKSC, Bitterne
- Work continues with the formation of the Pastoral Area Southampton East which our parish will be part of. Our Parish will continue to move forward with the process with the merger of the finances of CKSC/HE & WE which currently have separate financial accounts.
- Our Lady of the Assumption 50th Anniversary is this year; events are being planned to mark this anniversary and will be advertised in the Newsletter so keep your eyes peeled.
- The Next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on 20th May 2025. Please feel free to speak to one of the PPC members or email or contact the parish office if you have anything you would like to be considered at the next meeting.
- PPC representatives are Father Elijah; Lorna Sugden, Chair (WE); Steve Henwood (WE); John Murphy, Finance (HE/WE); Richard Davis (CKSC), Rose Jay (CKSC); Marion Miller (HE), Helen Smale (HE), Catherine Bassom, Parish office/Finance (HE), Josie Keogh, Parish office (CKSC).

### Our Lady of the Assumption Easter celebration refreshments after the Easter Vigil Holy Mass

Following our Lenten Observances, after the joyful celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass, there will be refreshments in the hall: cake, nibbles, etc. tea, coffee, orange juice, Bucks Fizz or, perhaps, a glass of "Celebration Fizz".

Please do come along if you can, to celebrate as a Community of Faith, the wonderful Feast of Easter.

Please bring along a plate of food to share.

We wish you a Blessed Easter and look forward to welcoming you.

### Our Lady of the Assumption 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass (25<sup>th</sup> April)

We are hoping to have eight priests at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption in Hedge End at 7pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Parishioners from all churches are very welcome to attend and help us celebrate.

There will be refreshments in the hall after Holy Mass. Please bring along a plate to share and help us make this a memorable occasion.

### CELEBRATE festival

In this year of Jubilee, connect with other families and people of all ages for a time of fun, faith and friendship at CELEBRATE festival! Happening 16-20 August at Worth School, West Sussex, with camping and residential accommodation options available.

Go to <https://celebratetrust.org/festival> to find out more.

### 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.

### Universalis

This Sunday's readings: Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.england/20250413/mass.htm>

### Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese



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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



@PortsmouthRC



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

News items can be sent to the diocese at:

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