

Reflection for Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week is an important time for Christians throughout the world. This is the final week of Lent, which begins on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. Holy Week is a time when, we as Catholics, gather to remember and participate in the Passion of Jesus Christ. The Passion was the final period of Christ's life in Jerusalem. It spans from when He arrived in Jerusalem to when He was crucified and rose from the dead.

Four special ceremonies commemorate the events of Christ's Passion from His entrance into Jerusalem, when palm branches were placed in His path, through His arrest on Holy Thursday and Crucifixion on Good Friday, to Holy Saturday, the day that Christ's body lay in the tomb. The summit of the Liturgical Year is the **Easter Triduum** – from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

Palm Sunday recalls Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. On this day, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ, the Lord, into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey to the praise of the townspeople who laid their cloths and palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. The Mass has two different moods, jubilation at the outset, then lamentation at the end. Jesus' entry to Jerusalem was exuberant as the people joyfully cheered Hosanna to greet him, but moments later all is somber as they shouted: "Crucify him!"

Holy Thursday: The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper when Jesus consecrated bread and wine into His Body and Blood. In the morning, bishops typically gather with priests from their diocese for the Chrism Mass or a day near Holy Week that works best for the Diocese. They bless holy oils during the Mass and also call on the Priests to renew their commitment to service in the Church. Later in the evening, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated. The Mass commemorates the institution of

the Eucharist, the institution of the priesthood, and the foot-washing where Jesus gave a mandate: "You ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. As I have done, so you should also do" (Jn. 13:14-15). Jesus is made present when disciples put aside their prideful aspirations, humble themselves, and serve one another, even to the point of doing a menial task joyfully.

Good Friday covers Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. This is the day that Christ gave himself over completely into the hands of his persecutors to show the depth of his love. The events of Good Friday are commemorated in the Stations of the Cross, a 14-step devotion, traditionally prayed during Lent and especially on Good Friday. Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church. Traditionally, there is no Mass. However, Holy Communion comes from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday Mass. Altars are left bare. Statues and cross are covered in purple, or the decor simply remove. Church bells remain silent until the Gloria at Easter Vigil. The solemn, muted atmosphere is preserved until the Easter Vigil.

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord (Ex. 12:42), in which, following the Gospel admonition (Lk. 12:35-37), the faithful, carrying lighted lamps (candles) in their hands, should be like those waiting for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table. Also, the account of Creation is heightened as the beginning of all things anew when the resurrection of Jesus repeats the words: "Let there be light." Death is conquered as the tomb is thrown open and Christ emerges as the True light. The Easter Vigil takes place at the end of the day because the new liturgical day begins at sunset outside the church, where an Easter fire is kindled and the Paschal candle is blessed and then lit. This Paschal candle will be used throughout the season of Easter, remaining in the sanctuary of the church and throughout the coming year at baptisms and funerals, reminding all that Christ is our life and light.

I wish you all a very grace-filled Holy Week and a Glorious Easter

Easter Vigil (Saturday 19th April)

8:30pm **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)

Easter Sunday (Sunday 20th April)

9.00am **St Brigid** (West End)

For the people

11.am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)

Connie Key RIP

Mass Times for 21st April – 27th April

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St. Brigid (West End)

Mon 21st 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Tues 22nd 10.00am **OLA** *In thanksgiving*

Wed 23rd 10.00am **SB** *For Kay Campbell RIP*

Thu 24th 10.00am **CKSC** *Josephine Eyston Elwes*

Fri 25th 7.00pm **OLA** **50th Anniversary of OLA Church**

Sat 26th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Sun 27th 9.15am **OLA** *Callaghan family intentions*

11.00am **CKSC** *For the RIP of Elizabeth
Lehyin on the anniversary of
her death*

5.30pm **SB** *In thanksgiving for 60 years of
marriage of Sheila and Colin Murphy*

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 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 4th April and 25th April, with a mixture of silence and quiet reflective music. Why not pop in, and pray away the stresses of the week?

Rosary Rally

Saturday 26th April 2pm

The Bargate, High St, Southampton SO14 2DJ

Join both the Marian Franciscans & the Parish of the Holy Family in consoling Our Lady & praying for the end of evil in the times that we live in.

Easter Triduum

17th April HOLY THURSDAY

8.00pm CKSC, Bitterne
followed by Watching until 11.00pm

18th April GOOD FRIDAY

3.00pm The Passion CKSC, Bitterne

19th April HOLY SATURDAY:

8.30pm Vigil Mass OLA, Hedge End

20th 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 11th & 18th 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.

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)

Tue 22 nd	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall)
	7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 24 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC)
	10am-12pm Open Church (OLA)
Fri 25 th	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
	5.30pm-6.30pm Open Church (SB)
Tue 29 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall)
	7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 1 st	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC)
	10am-12pm Open Church (OLA)
Sun 4 th	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 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.

Southampton Council of Faiths presents **Faith Reflections on End of Life Care and Assisted Dying** King Edward VI School, Wilton Road, Southampton SO15 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.

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

14th June **Summer Tea Party**

25th July 50th Anniversary **Summer Quiz**

16th August **Parish Summer Picnic**
at Manor Farm

**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
50th Anniversary Mass (25th April)**

Celebration Mass 50 Years! All parishioners invited!

Come and Celebrate our 50th Anniversary of the building of Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Friday, April 25th with Mass starting at 7pm.

Canon Michael Dennehy will celebrate Mass for us alongside Fr. Elijah and five Deanery Priests.

It will be a wonderful occasion of thanks and praise to God for His Blessings on our church and parish family.

The celebrations will continue afterwards in the hall with refreshments including a special cake, maybe even

some champagne from Waitrose?? tea and coffee. (please bring something to share)

It will be wonderful if you are able to join us on this special parish 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.

Care Home Ministry (West End)

Within the St Brigid elderly outreach (initially to the five care homes in West End), we're running a short monthly 'Songs of Praise' service at Dawson Lodge, from Mon 28 April. Parishioners welcome to assist. For more info contact Clare (07910 781801) or Veronica (07847 475806). To tell us of anyone you already know of or visit in these care homes, please contact the parish office.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese



@PortsmouthRC



Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



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

News items can be sent to the diocese at:

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Universalis

This Sunday's readings: Readings

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