

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)

Office: 2 Dean Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO18 6AP – *Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am–1pm*

Phone 023 8044 9088, Email ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Michael Ingram (safeguarding.soukc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

5th Sunday of Easter (Year C, Cycle 1)

18th May 2025

Reflection — 'Love one another as I have loved you' (Jn. 13:34)

Just a week ago we celebrated Vocations' Sunday and reflected on the call to imitate Jesus, the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep. Today we are invited to reflect on the fundamental vocation that underpins and unites all vocations in the service of the Lord and humanity: the vocation to love.

In today's first reading, Paul exhorts us to remain faithful disciples. He reminds us that: "We all have to experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God." In other words, our suffering as Christians is the steppingstone to our victory. If we do not lose our faith during times of persecution and hardships, we shall be victorious.

John in today's second reading, God gives us a glimpse of that kingdom that Paul spoke of in our first reading. God's kingdom is the place of renewal where Christ will restore our lost glory. The New Jerusalem is the reward for Christians who bear an authentic witness to Christ.

In today's gospel, Christ gives us a new commandment: "I give you a new commandment, love one another; you must love one another." Through this, Christ reminds us that the only way we can overcome the tribulations and persecutions of this world is by remaining united in love.

In times of trials and persecution, love is the greatest virtue that sustains every Christian community. The early Christian community understood this very well. They obeyed Christ's command and were successful in their missions. So, their admirers commented thus: "See how they love one another" (Tertullian, Apology: 39.7, 3 AD).

Mass Times and Intentions

5th Week of Easter

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tue-Fri). Sacrament of Confession is available on request.
Mass Intentions can be requested through Fr Elijah or the Parish Office.

Date	Times & Location			Mass Intentions
Sun 18 th May	9.15am-11am	OLA	Mass	Monsignor Philip Carroll RIP Fr Desmond McGivern For the wellbeing of Fr Andy Graydon & the community of Blessed William Richardson church in Kiveton, South Yorkshire
	5.30pm	CKSC	Mass	
	6pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Polish Mass	
Tue 20 th May	10am	OLA	Mass	For Sarah Saxby's Intentions
Wed 21 th May	10am	SB	Mass	For Patricia Craig RIP
Thur 22 th May	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 23 th May	10am	OLA	Mass	For the people
Sat 24 th May	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 25 th May	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Thomas & Jane Simpson & deceased relatives Margaret Mary Miller For the repose of the soul of Guido Camilleri, Francis, Antonia, Doris and Elsie
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Polish Mass	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20250518/mass.htm>

Events



The funeral Mass of Chris Cookson will be at 10am on Friday 30th May at Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End followed by committal at West Chapel, Southampton Crematorium. There will be refreshments afterwards in the hall at OLA.

The funeral Mass of Peter Humphreys will be at 10am on Tuesday 27th May at St Brigid, West End. Please do join us to thank the Lord for Peter's life.

Please continue to keep those who have died recently in your prayers.

Within our Parish

50th Anniversary of 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:

- * 14th June Summer Tea Party in OLA hall
- * 25th July 50th Anniversary Summer Quiz held in OLA hall. Tickets will be available soon.
- * 16th August Parish Summer Picnic at Hamble Country Park, on the grass area between the barn café and tree line. Please bring your own picnic. Car parking charges will apply.

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.

Collection figures for Hedge End/West End for April 2025

Looseplate	£662.53
Standing orders and direct payments	£1541.50
Online giving	£80.00
Flowers	£11.87
Table tennis	£200.00
Candles	£26.96

Hall Income	£656.00
Fundraising - other	£20.00
Donations	£9.48
Other	£1000.00
CAFOD	£289.59
Clergy Assistance fund	£66.99

Within the Diocese and beyond

Retreat for Engaged and Married Couples: 13th-15th June 2025 – *Nurturing Hope in the family...* On the Isle of Wight Verbum Dei Retreat Centre. To register or for more info: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com www.uk.verbumdei.org

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.

Recurring Events

Our Lady of the Assumption – Hedge End

- Tea Coffee, Biscuits, Friendly Chat 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 during term time
- Choir practice in hall - 7:30pm on 2nd & 4th Friday each month. All welcome.

Continuing to Support 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 mention which fund you are donating to as a reference.

Make out cheques for Fr Elijah to Rev Fru N Elijah

Thank you for your support