

# 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*

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

Diocese Safeguarding Contact: [safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

20<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Reflection from Fr Elijah: Hospitality, a Virtue of Humanity

Hospitality is a notable characteristic of all civilizations and cultures. Similarly, hospitality ranks among the most highly acclaimed virtues in scriptures. The examples of Elijah receiving hospitality from a poor widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17-18) and of Elisha being hosted by a Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8) spring to mind. Today, the church reminds us of the importance of hospitality. It is a virtue and our duty towards others. She also reminds us of the need to pay attention to Christ, our Guest. Most importantly, we are advised not to pay more attention to material things in neglect of the spiritual.

In the first reading, Abraham displayed hospitality by welcoming strangers (messengers from God). Not only did he welcome them, but he also catered for their needs. He paid attention to their message and instructions. Hence, God rewarded and blessed him.

In our second reading, St. Paul reminds us that Christ is the hidden mystery that God has revealed to our world. Receiving and accepting this mystery is the first step toward establishing a solid and lasting relationship with God.

Today's gospel presents us with a challenge, Jesus' response to Martha: "You worry about so many things, and yet, few are needed. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her." Perhaps, Jesus felt that it was not enough for Martha to have welcomed him. Maybe, she should have given priority to His message before any other activity.

Hospitality includes paying attention to people and listening to the reason why they came to us in the first place. At times, what people need from us are not just material things but our attention. So, we must not allow anything to prevent us from welcoming Christ or take away our attention from his presence. Hence, the psalmist reminds us today that: "The just will live in the presence of the Lord!"

## Mass Times and Intentions

### 16<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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 & Feasts
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Thomas & Anastasia & deceased relatives For Robert Sim (RIP) On the 13 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Archie Gibson's death and for all deceased relatives.
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	10am	OLA	Mass	For the people
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	10am	SB	Mass	For the people
Thur 24 <sup>th</sup> July	10am	CKSC	Mass	For Rena Jordan on her 85 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> July	10am	OLA	Mass	For the intentions of Mark Ingram
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> July			NO MASS	
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Bernard Reading (RIP) 14 <sup>th</sup> anniversary For Pascal Mgembe RIP, on 5 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing For the repose of the souls of Guido Camilleri, Francis, Anthonia, Doris, and Elsie
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20250720/mass.htm>



The family of Julia Baldwin invite you to join them in remembering and celebrating her life. At Wessex Vale crematorium, West End, on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm.

## Events

### Within our Parish

**First reconciliation and Holy Communion preparation:** All parents who would like their child, in Year 4 or above, to make their First Holy Communion in our parish this year are asked to register their interest NOW by sending an email to the parish office [ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). Please could you include your name, your child's name, which school they attend and in which year group they will be in September. You will then be sent an introductory letter. Thank you.

**Confirmation:** Sign up for Confirmation for 2026! For those yr 9 and above who are keen to sign up for the Confirmation Preparation, please write a handwritten letter explaining why you would like join the classes by Sunday 31st August. Please post letter through the Presbytery door at 2 Dean Road, Bitterne, in an envelope with your name and contact numbers (of parents/guardians) on it, or hand it directly to Richard Keogh or Deidre Fairman at 11am mass at Christ the King and St Colman on a Sunday. Thank you.

**Quiz Night:** '50th Anniversary Summer Fun Quiz Night' at OLA Hall on Friday 25th July from 7.00pm (to form teams) ready for a 7.30pm start. £5.00 per adult - children free. Price includes tea/coffee/squash and a Ham/Cheese Ploughman's Supper. Feel free to bring your own alcoholic drinks and bring some cash for a fun raffle! Tickets on sale in all churches. Please put your name and ticket number on the sign-up sheet. Looking forward to welcoming you 😊

### Income figures for CKSC in March & April :

Loose offertory	933.52
Contactless giving	1,065.92
Standing Orders & Direct debits	4,025.00
Church maintenance	334.53
Hall rent	1,955.00

Polish Community	900.00
Candles & flowers	135.02
Repository	6.39
Closer to Christ	85.00

CAFOD	513.92
Clergy Assistance Fund	76.00
Life	173.06
Holy Places	293.72

### Within the Diocese and beyond

**Holiday Bible Club:** Join Churches Together to explore the story of Jonah and the whale at St Luke's church, Hedge End, SO30 2US. Ages 5-11 yrs, 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August, 10am-12pm, £6 per child/week. Book [hewebholidaybibleclubbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hewebholidaybibleclubbookings@gmail.com)

**CAFOD – Global Debt Crisis:** We are gathering signatures for a global church petition to world leaders who can make a great difference to this situation if they chose to. 54 countries from Kenya to Sri Lanka are facing debt distress. Many are forced to spend more on payments to big banks, wealthy nations and global institutions than on health, education, or lifesaving climate measures. Often, they have already re-paid their debts once, but due to unscrupulous lenders and extortionate interest rates, they are often left paying for the original debt many times over. This cannot be right. 2025 is a jubilee year, which is when the Bible calls for debt cancellation to restore justice and human dignity. Let us stand in unity to demand action on debt crisis. Please sign the petitions at the back of the churches and help to put pressure on our government to make legislation to stop banks and lenders in this country charge unjust rates of interest. See the website for more information [CAFOD.org.uk](http://CAFOD.org.uk)

## 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 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 during term time

- Tea, coffee, biscuits & friendly chat in the hall after Holy Mass 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 – West End*

- Tea, coffee & cake every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month after Mass

## 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