

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/>

Diocese Safeguarding Contact: safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

27th July 2025

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Let us Persevere in Prayer!

On this 17th Sunday of ordinary time, the Church draws our attention to the need to pray for prayer is the key to unlock the grace of God. Today, Christ himself teaches us how to pray, as well as encourages us to pray without ceasing.

In today's first reading, Abraham, our father in faith, demonstrated great courage. Without fear he approached God and boldly interceded on behalf of Lot, his nephew. Abraham teaches us that we have a duty to intercede for others. There is a saying that: "God governs the world, while prayer governs God." By our intercession, God can save the sinner and heal the sick.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us of our redemption in Christ, for this was possible due to our faith in God who raised Jesus from the dead. Therefore, it is through this same faith that we must constantly approach God our father in prayer.

Today's gospel is an explicit call to pray. The disciple requested: "Lord, teach us how to pray." In other words, the saying: "Do not give me fish! Rather, teach me how to fish." Today Christ prayed and taught us how to pray. All we need is to be persistent, patient, and humble.

If we must achieve in our mission, our prayer life must be revived. Therefore, like the disciple in today's gospel, we must humbly implore Jesus: "Lord, teach us how to pray." Paul reminds us that: "We do not know how to pray, but the Spirit intercedes for us in groans that words cannot express" (Rom. 8:26). So, we must constantly ask the Spirit to help us to pray. Also, it is important to note that, if we pray according to the will and mind of God, He will hear us.

Finally, our God never goes to sleep. He knows when, where, and how to respond. Therefore, we must not give up the habit of praying and interceding for one another because prayer unlocks the heart of God.

Mass Times and Intentions

17th 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 27 th July	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Bernard Reading (RIP) 14 th anniversary For Pascal Mgembe RIP, on 5 th 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)	
Tue 29 th July	10am	OLA	Mass	For the people
Wed 30 th July	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 31st July	10am	CKSC	Mass	Julia Baldwin RIP
Fri 1 st August	10am	OLA	Mass	Mrs Vera Elkes RIP
Sat 2nd August			NO MASS	For Elizabeth, Innocent, Angela Reid, family & friends RIP
Sun 3 rd August	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Ian Saxby RIP on 12 th anniversary of his passing For Pascal Mgembe RIP, on 5 th anniversary of his passing
	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/20250727/mass.htm>

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. 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 Deidre Fairman at 11am mass at Christ the King and St Colman on a Sunday. Thank you letter. Thank you.

Hedge End & West End Fundraising Parish Donation Day 6th July 2025 Reminder

Thank you to everyone who handed in their envelope and donated money to our much-needed funds on Parish Donation Day. If you have not returned your envelope, could you please do so as soon as possible. There are spare envelopes to be given out if needed. Just ask one of the Ministers of Welcome to hand you one.

Within the Diocese and beyond

Churches together in Bitterne: On the 27th July there will be a Prayer and Worship service at URC for their Southern Fellowship at 7pm to which all are invited to attend. Tea and cake will be served from 6:30pm.

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, 4th-8th August, 10am-12pm, £6 per child/week. Book 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

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

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

St Brigid – West End

- Tea, coffee & cake every 2nd Sunday of the month after Mass

- 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
- Tea, coffee, biscuits & friendly chat in the hall after Holy Mass every 1st Sunday of the month
- 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