

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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

17th August 2025

Reflection from Fr Elijah: With Christ, we are Victorious

On this twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church encourages us to fight evil by imitating Christ, whose purifying “fire” transforms and saves us from peril.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah suffered grave injustice because of the message he preached. He became a figure of dissension. This was because his message was so discomfoting to the leaders. So, their best option was to conspire and get rid of him. Although they succeeded for a while, God proved His might. He did not allow him to perish. Instead, at his own time and in his way, God came to his aid. The Psalmist testifies: “I waited and waited for the Lord, and he heard my cry.”

The second reading from the letter to the Hebrews encourages us to keep running steadily. We are to “focus on Jesus, the author of our faith.” We are to emulate Christ’s zeal and courage during difficult moments in life.

The gospel of today has left many wondering what Jesus means by bringing “fire and division upon the earth.” This is because we call Him the Prince of peace and the one who unites. Does Jesus want to destroy us with fire? No! The fire that Jesus brings is different. It is the fire of the Holy Spirit, which purifies our souls from evil and saves us. This fire is the saving message of the Gospel, and the power of its commandments. Hence, this Sunday, Jesus reassures us of his willingness to continue the work of salvation which he started in us. He plans to achieve this through continuous purification. Let us pray that this purifying fire will purge our world of the reign of evil.

Mass Times and Intentions

20th 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 17 th August	9.15am	OLA	Mass	John Cookson RIP Christine Morgan RIP For the people
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 19 th August	10am	OLA	Mass	
Wed 20 th August	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 21 st August	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 22 nd August	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 23 rd August	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 24 th August	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the intentions of Doug & Marion Miller on the occasion of their 25 th wedding anniversary In praise & thanksgiving by Joan St Omer For the people
	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/20250817/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.

An Evening of Entertainment: Saturday, 13th September at 6.30pm - 8pm. Everyone is invited to this free social event of homegrown talent across our parish and promises to be an evening of fun, laughter, song and dance. If you play an instrument, want to sing, dance, tell jokes, or have another talent, and would like to join in the fun, let us know. Please contact Jane 07761039330 for further information.

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.

Income figures for Hedge End and West End in July:

Loose offertory	729.39	Donation Day	1575.00	Stella Maris	150.50
Standing Orders & Direct debits	1458.00	Summer Quiz	394.40		
Cricket parking	650.00	Give As You Live	15.46		
Table Tennis	194.90	Closer to Christ	121.66		
Hall rent	224.00	Misso – red box	24.46		

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 (not during summer holidays)

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