

# 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/>

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

14<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## Reflection from Fr Elijah: The Cross of Jesus – A symbol of Triumph and Love.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross honours the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Today's feast also commemorates the testimony of the power of the Cross, when in 326 St. Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, travelled to Jerusalem to pray. With the guidance of the local Bishops, she discovered the true Cross of Christ at the site of his crucifixion. Acknowledging the reverence due the Cross, two churches were built at the command of Emperor Constantine at the site of the Holy Sepulcher and Mount Calvary.

This feast proclaims the triumph of Jesus on the cross. What was the nature of that triumph? It was firstly the triumph of life over death. It was also the triumph of love over hatred. Furthermore, it was triumph of mercy over sin. Today's feast celebrates the good news that God turned the tragedy of Calvary into a triumph for us all. Through the cross, God's life-giving love and mercy was embracing us all.

Today's feast also reminds us that in our own personal experiences of Calvary, the Lord is present with us in a loving and merciful way, working on our behalf to bring new life out of our suffering and dying. Through the eyes of the resurrection, we can see the cross of Jesus as the triumph of love over hatred, of Jesus' love over the hatred of his enemies, of God's love over the hateful rejection of his Son. The cross will give us strength in our sufferings and remind us of our hope of eternal glory with the risen Lord.

## Mass Times and Intentions

### 24<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 14 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Exaltation of the Most Holy Cross</i>	9.15am 11am 5.30pm  6pm	OLA CKSC SB  CKSC	Mass Mass Mass  Mass (in Polish)	For the people For Henry Diagboya RIP In thanksgiving for Roland Hoskins on his 70 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	OLA	Mass	Thanksgiving Mass for Fr Elijah on his 45 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup> September			NO MASS	
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	CKSC	Mass	For John Cloney RIP
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> September	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	Birthday blessings for Cassius' 9 <sup>th</sup> birthday

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20250914/mass.htm>

### Second Collection – 14<sup>th</sup> September – Catholic Education Service

The Diocese of Portsmouth serves children and young adults by providing places of education, university chaplaincy, parish youth ministry and opportunities for social action. There are 69 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Portsmouth providing education and faith formation to 30,799 pupils.

Thank you – The family of Ann Fagan want to extend their gratitude to the members of the congregation who attended the funeral last week. Your kindness was very much appreciated.

## Within our Parish

**First Reconciliation and Holy Communion preparation:** Application forms are now available to any parent who would like their child, in Year 4 or above, to make their First Holy Communion in our parish. Please find forms at the back of each church, or contact the parish office via email. Thank you.

**Parish Office availability update:** From the beginning of September, the Parish Office will be running at a reduced capacity. The team are likely to be working remotely, so please contact them via email with any request. We hope to resume the usual office hours by advent.

**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.

## Within the Diocese and beyond

**Sion's D Weekend:** For young people in school years 7 to 9, 31<sup>st</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Join us for a weekend of fun, friends and faith. They will get to meet other young people just like themselves from all over the country and spend a few days growing closer to God and having loads of fun with the Sion Youth Team. Bookings are now open. Visit <https://sioncommunity.churchsuite.com/events/ydeybedt>

**CAFOD Response in Gaza:** Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk). Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East.

**CAFOD Meeting:** You are invited to a CAFOD meeting at St Bedes Church Hall Basingstoke on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 10:30am to 1:30pm. Come and hear about the difference your donations are making to communities around the world and CAFOD's work with partners in Southern Ethiopia. A simple lunch will be provided so please book your place by emailing Jo on [jlwry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlwry@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 (not during summer holidays)

- 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