

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

21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

## Reflection from Fr Elijah: You cannot be the slave both of God and of Money (Lk. 16:13)

‘Money makes the world go round.’ So sang Liza Minnelli in the popular 1972 musical, Cabaret. Certainly today, money features strongly among the most prominent of human concerns.

Our first reading from the prophet Amos underlines the abuses which arise from the greed for money. In Amos’ time, wealth was concentrated in the hands of a few, who mercilessly exploit the many poor farmers and labourers. The wealthy commercial barons and merchants cannot wait for the Sabbath to be over before continuing their lucrative but dishonest business: cheating on weights and measures, tampering with scales, inflating the value of goods, and deflating the value of money. What they are doing is ‘buying up the poor for money’ (Amos 8:6). Fearlessly, Amos castigates those who engage in such practices’ (Amos 8:4).

In our gospel text from Luke, Jesus refers to money as ‘tainted’ but instructs his disciples to use it ‘to win you friends, ...’ (Lk. 16: 9). Certainly, Jesus is not saying that we can buy our way into heaven! Indeed, the message of the gospel seems, at first glance, rather puzzling and even disconcerting. To practicalize this urgency, Jesus tells his disciples a parable about a dishonest but shrewd steward who, having squandered his master’s property, takes immediate steps to secure his own future.

The behaviour of this unjust steward is self-serving and reprehensible, and Jesus is not putting him forward as an example to be followed, rather as a lesson. Here, in our service of God and his reign of love and justice, we must be as decisive as the steward was in the pursuit of his own interests. But instead of acting dishonestly, like him, we must take those actions that serve God’s purposes and that lead to a more human and just world and thus win us eternal life. In the words of Joyce Meyer, ‘We must remember that we are stewards, not owners, of what God has provided for us.’

## Mass Times and Intentions

### 25<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 21 <sup>st</sup> September	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For Jean Timmons (RIP), and the Palethorpe family Birthday blessings for Cassius’ 9 <sup>th</sup> birthday For the People
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> September			NO MASS	
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> September			NO MASS	
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> September			NO MASS	
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> September			NO MASS	
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	CKSC	Mass	Thanksgiving and blessings on Veronica and Trevor Whyte on their wedding anniversary
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> September	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people 98 <sup>th</sup> birthday blessings for Veronica Maloney For the repose of the souls of Guido Camilleri, Francis, Antonia, 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/20250921/mass.htm>

**Second Collection – 21<sup>st</sup> September – Evangelii Gaudium (formally Home Missions)**



Congratulations to Vinnie, who is being baptised during 9.15am Mass on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Please continue to hold him, his parents and family in your prayers.

## 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.

**A huge "Thank You":** to all the performers, who entertained us at the "Entertainment Evening" last Saturday at OLA hall. It was a fantastic evening of singers, dancers, instrumentalists, magic and an eloquent Compare to keep us all in order. Thank you also to the committee for providing refreshments and setting up the hall. Who would have known we had so much talent in our parish, from the age of 6yrs - 90 yrs! It was a wonderful penultimate event celebrating OLA 50th. Please come along to our Christmas Carol Service in December, which will be advertised in due course.

**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.

## 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.

## 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)

### *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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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