

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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Diocese Safeguarding Contact: safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

28th September 2025

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Indifference – The Sin of Omission

Today's readings, like those of last Sunday, invite us to continue our reflection on the dangers of riches.

In our first reading, the prophet Amos vividly describes and roundly condemns the self-indulgent lifestyle of the wealthy. 'Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock and stall-fattened veal' (Amos 6:4).

In the gospel, Jesus recounts a familiar rich man/poor man folk tale. The final destiny of Lazarus is to be 'carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham', whereas the rich man ends up 'in torment in Hades' (Lk 16:22-23). Like Amos, Jesus pinpoints indifference as the basic sin of the rich man. Cushioned by his lavish lifestyle, he is utterly oblivious to the presence of the poor man at his gate, starving and 'covered with sores' (Lk 16:20). He fails to see Lazarus as a fellow human, a brother, in dire need.

Indifference is the cardinal sin of those whose wealth blinds them to the sufferings and deprivations of the poor. It should be counted among the capital sins as it lies at the root of so many other sins of neglect.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is particularly relevant to our time, when the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow. We cannot be indifferent to the poverty around us. We are our sisters' and brothers' keepers. As St John Chrysostom, that great champion of the poor, reminds us, we cannot celebrate the presence of Christ in the Eucharist without serving him present in the poor: 'Do not pretend to honour Christ in the Church while you neglect him outside where he is cold and naked'. So, let us ask the Lord today to make us more aware of his presence in the poor and to open our hearts in response to their needs.

Mass Times and Intentions

26th 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 28 th September	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people 98 th 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)	
Tue 30 th September	10am	OLA	Mass	
	11am	CKSC	Funeral Service	
Wed 1 st October	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 2 nd October	10am	CKSC	Mass	For good health & wellbeing of Tweedy and family
Fri 3 rd October	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 4 th October	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 5 th October	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For Clara and James, In thanksgiving
	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/20250928/mass.htm>

Second Collection – 21st September – Evangelii Gaudium (formally Home Missions)



The funeral of Judith Legg is at 11am on Tuesday 30th September at Christ the King & St Colman. Please continue to pray for Russ Fairman and his family as we thank the Lord for Judith's life.

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 Safeguarding Minister: We have an exciting recruitment opportunity within our parishes for a Parish Safeguarding Minister (PSM). This is a voluntary role with responsibility for raising awareness of good safeguarding practice and ensuring standards are in line with the policies and procedures for the catholic church. We require a representative from each church, so please do reflect on whether you can help. If you are interested in volunteering for this vital parish role, please contact the parish office for more information, including role details.

First Friday Soup: Following the “hot” summer break, please join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup with crusty bread at about 12 noon on Friday 3rd October in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall. Donations go to CaFOD. We look forward to welcoming you.

Harvest Festival: during 9.15am Mass on 12th October we will celebrate Harvest Festival. This year our gifts will again support the local food bank. So many families continue to face the impact of higher food costs. Many give to the Food Bank collection at the back of the church on a regular basis; please at this Harvest Festival Time, can we all make an extra special effort to boost the Food Bank! Tinned and dried goods please: eg: meat, fruit, veg, custard, rice, jars of sauces, UHT Milk, tea, coffee, toiletries, squash, biscuits etc. Thank you.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” Matthew 25: 35-40

Within the Diocese and beyond

CaFOD Family Fast Day: is on Friday 3rd October. Envelopes are available at the back of each church, or use the contactless card machine to donate or go to their website. Please give what you can so that CaFOD can continue to help our brothers and sisters around the world.

Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo: 10th November 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights’ in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Sion’s D Weekend: For young people in school years 7 to 9, 31st October – 2nd 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>

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)

- 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 1st 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 2nd 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