

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/>Diocese Safeguarding Contact: safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)****26th October 2025****Reflection from Fr Elijah: 'Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner' (Lk. 18:13)**

Today's Scripture readings link the themes of prayer and humility. The first reading assures us that 'the prayer of the humble pierces the clouds' (Eccl. 35:17). The responsorial psalm echoes the same sentiment: 'The Lord is near to the broken-hearted; he helps those whose spirit is crushed' (Ps 34:18). In the Gospel reading from Luke, which recounts the memorable parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-collector, Jesus illustrates the kind of prayer that is acceptable to the Lord. Luke draws our attention to the audience Jesus had in mind when he spoke this parable, namely, 'people who prided themselves on being upright and despised everyone else' (Lk. 18:9). The parable tells the story of two men who go to the Temple to pray: one a respected and law-abiding Jew, a Pharisee; the other a renegade and despised Jew, a Tax-collector and, therefore, a collaborator with the hated Roman colonizers. The story contrasts vividly the prayers of these different characters.

Today's readings, especially the gospel, teaches us that God wants us to be honest and real when we approach him in prayer, to acknowledge the cracks in our lives and open our hearts to him. We are far from perfect, but we shouldn't be discouraged by this or pretend to be better than we are, or better than some others. When we bring our broken spirits, our broken hearts to God; when we abandon ourselves to his mercy, as did the Tax-collector, then we are giving him a chance to make something of us. We are letting God in, and that is when healing and transformation takes place.

Mass Times and Intentions**30th 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 26 th October	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the repose of the soul of Sarah Barlex on the anniversary of her birthday In thanksgiving to God for the healing of Pat O'Donovan For the repose of the soul of Guido Camilleri, Francis, Anthonia, Doris and Elsie
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 28 th October	10am	OLA	Mass	
Wed 29 th October	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 30 th October	10am	CKSC	Mass	George & Lily Watkins & Relations
Fri 31 st October	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 1 st November	10am	CKSC	Mass	
Sun 2 nd November <i>All Saints Day</i>	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For all the Peoples of Bamenda For Gilbert Oliver (RIP) 50 th anniversary
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Mon 3 rd November <i>All Souls Day</i>	10am	OLA	Mass	<i>Visit to Cemetery after Mass</i> <i>Visit to Cemetery after Mass</i> <i>Visit to Cemetery after Mass</i>
	12pm	SB	Mass	
	7pm	CKSC	Mass	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20251026/mass.htm>Second Collection – 2nd November – Bamenda Sunday

Within our Parish

All Souls Day: is on Monday 3rd Nov., I encourage every parishioner to remember and pray for the dead. Traditionally, we are encouraged to write the names of our deceased loved ones and offer them as Mass intentions with a donation. The names are left at the foot of the Altar throughout November and be prayed for daily. For those who have recently died, you can also include their names in the Remembrance Book.

Parish Safeguarding Minister: Are you a good listener and a friendly face? We need a safeguarding representative from each church who is happy to be a point of contact to those in our church who need a little help. If you are interested in more information, please contact the parish office, or speak with Fr Elijah directly.

Shared lunch for Bamenda Sunday: 2nd November. Following the 11am Mass at Christ the King & St Colman, you are invited to a shared lunch in the hall, Commercial Street. Donations of sweet or savoury food, nibbles, cakes and drinks will gratefully be received. Please come and share the joy of our diocesan partnership with Bamenda.

FREE! : The desk at the back of the church (next to the organ) is available for anyone who can use it and is able to take it away.

First Friday Soup: Join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup with crusty bread at 12 noon on Friday 7th November at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall. Donations go to CaFOD.

Christmas Mini Mart: on Sunday 30th November 2025 after mass at the Church Hall in Hedge End. Donation boxes will be placed at the back of the church in Hedge End and West End, tickets on sale from November 9th. Donations for the gift stalls, the tombola and raffle will be greatly appreciated. Please make sure everything is in particularly good condition and has not passed its sell-by-date. Please no bric-a-brac, old books or clothes or earrings.

Mince pies and Christmas biscuits can also be donated on the day.

Setting up on **Saturday 29th November** (time tbc) and help with the various stalls, please do come along and help. We are looking for someone to organise and run the tombola and someone to sell tickets at Hedge End and West End. If interested, please contact beagillmartin@googlemail.com

Within the Diocese and beyond

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 knockpilgrimimages@gmail.com.

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.

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on the 15th January, please submit any points of discussion to the office.

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