

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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year A, Cycle I

29th October 2023

Love – The Vertical and Horizontal Dimensions

Ex. 22: 20-26; Ps. 17: 2-4. 47. 51; 1Thes. 1: 5-10; Mt. 22: 34-40

Today, the thirtieth Sunday of ordinary time, the church reminds us of the most important theological virtue, love. Today, Jesus gives us the two dimensions of love. The vertical, love of God, and the horizontal, love of neighbor.

In the first reading of today, through Moses, God warns us: “You must not oppress the stranger or molest him...not be harsh with the widow or with orphans.” Of course, God reminds us that such acts would attract his wrath upon the oppressor. Therefore, the lesson here is that we must treat others justly and with love. God hates oppression and injustice especially, against the weak, the poor and the defenseless.

In the second reading, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of their former status as pagans, and how they were liberated through the power of the good news. Their liberation was a sign of God’s love for them and their acceptance of the good news a sign of their love for God. Thus, Paul praised their effort and encouraged them to endure in love until the coming of the Lord.

In today’s gospel, the Pharisees posed Christ another “difficult” question: “Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?” As usual, this was in order to test him. A close look at Jesus’ response today, reveals that Jesus presents us with, first the vertical dimension of love: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul...” It is important to note that to love God with one’s body and soul requires a lot of sacrifice, and humility. To love God is the most important prerequisite of being like him. The second dimension of love is the horizontal: “You must love your neighbour as yourself?” This is more difficult than the first. This is because we often presume or take it for granted. This is, by thinking that we can love God alone without loving our neighbors.

Hence, Christ reminds us that: “If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for

he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 Jn. 4: 20). So, the best way of expressing our love for God is through our neighbors. We must affect others positively in order to love God well.

Therefore, in talking of love, charity must begin at home, with those we live with, with our neighbours, and with our friends. Saint Augustine admonishes us; “...Love and do whatever you will. Whether you hold your peace, through love hold your peace; whether you cry out, through love cry out; whether you correct, through love correct; whether you spare, through love you must spare. Let the root of love be within, of this root can nothing spring but what is good.” When we find God, we find our own peace and love. Finally, those who choose to live in peace must help their neighbors to live in peace. Those who choose to live well, must help others to live well too. The value of one’s life is measured by the lives it touched positively. So, with the psalmist, let us proclaim: **“I love you Lord, my strength**

Fr Elijah

Notices

As November draws near, we remember it is the month to pray for the dead. Many of us have family, relations and friends who have died. It is the privileged time to offer Masses for the dead especially on All Souls Day. Specially designed envelopes for these Masses will be made available at the back of the Church.

Sunday 5th November 2023 is Bamenda Sunday. We celebrate our twinned Diocese of Portsmouth and Bamenda. Please bring and share in the Hall after each Mass. To register an interest please Ruth Cunio

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 29th Oct 2023

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
In memory of Bernard Hawkes RIP (on what would have been his 100th birthday)
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid (West End)**
For the people
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (31st Oct - 5th Nov)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

CKSC – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 31st 10.00am **OLA** CANCELLED
7.00pm **OLA Vigil Mass for All Saints Day**
- Wed 1st 10.00am **SB. All Saints Day**
(Holy Day of Obligation)
7.30pm **CKSC** *For the people*
- Thu 2nd. 10.00am **CKSC All Souls Day**
12.00pm **SB**
7.00pm **OLA**
- Fri 3rd 10.00am **OLA**
- Sat 4th 10.00am **CKSC** *For healing and wellbeing of Angela Reid, David Reid, Marina Augustin Cenac*
- Sun 5th 9.15am **OLA**
11.00am **CKSC**
5.30pm **SB**
6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tues – Fri)

Sacrament of Confession is available on request

We are all encouraged to offer Mass Intentions for our families and friends (contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

Entrance Antiphon *Ps 105 (104): 3-4*

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Communion Antiphon *Ps 20 (19): 6*

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

Upcoming news about SCRATCH

S.C.R.A.T.C.H. "Christmas Complete 2023" will soon be upon us collecting NEW TOYS & GIFTS for children who may not receive any for Christmas. Toys, puzzles, books and teenage gifts for children from birth up to 17 years old gratefully accepted.

Our Lady of the Assumption will again be a drop-off point for gifts. Amazon wishlist available on SCRATCH website or you can give financially to help purchase items in case of shortages.

Continuing Support of 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 use your surname as a reference.

Make out cheques for Fr Elijah to Rev Fru N Elijah

Thank you for your support.

Are You a Co-op member?

If you are, you can help the work of Caritas Portsmouth to support people struggling with social isolation by choosing us as your local Co-op cause through their Local Community Fund. Each time you shop at Co-op using your card, we receive a donation at no cost to you. To select us, just visit our [profile page](#) and click on the 'choose this cause' button and please spread the word to family, friends and in parishes. Not a Co-op member yet – not a problem! You can join for £1, just click on [this link](#) to find out more. Thank you for your support.

Caritas page

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/81956>

Coop membership page

<https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

Baptism of Theo Dawu Ndloru

We welcome Theo Dawu Ndloru who will be baptised during the 11am Mass on Sunday 29th October at Christ the King & St Colman.

Please keep Theo and his family in your prayers.

Baptism of Jonathan McDonagh

We welcome Jonathan McDonagh who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Hedge End on Saturday 28th October at 12pm.

Please keep Jonathan and his family in your prayers.

Our Lady of the Assumption: OPEN CHURCH

Our Lady of the Assumption Church is open on Thursday each week from 11am to 1pm for private prayer. If you are able to join the rota please contact Pauline or Jane.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

CKSC – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

SB – St Brigid (West End)

OCTOBER

- Thu 26th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
11am-1pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 29th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)
- Tue 31st 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

NOVEMBER

- Thu 2nd 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
11am-1pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Tue 7th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 9th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
11am-1pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 12th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)
- Tue 14th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 15th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)
8.00-9.00pm **Faith on Fire** (CKSC)
- Thu 16th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
11am-1pm **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 19th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)

Recurring Events

Our Lady of The Assumption (Hedge End)

- **Tea Coffee, Biscuits, Friendly Chat** (and often cake) in the hall every Sunday after Holy Mass
- **Children's Liturgy** during Mass every 3rd Sunday of the Month (except in July/August)
- **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** Thursday from 11am to 1pm (OLA)

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
- **Faith on Fire** 8-9pm last Wednesday of every month
- **Young Meetings** 12:30 -14:00 -2nd and 4th Sundays of every month
- **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & friendly chat** in the hall every 1st Sunday of the month

If you would like a future event to be included in the Calendar of Events, kindly advise the Parish office.

Our Lady of the Assumption - Friday Soup

1st Friday Soup for November will be:

2nd Friday Soup on Friday 10th Nov 2023.

Please do come along and join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup and crusty bread at about 12.00 noon on Friday 10th November in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.

There is no charge however, donations will be gratefully received.

Friday 10th November will be the last Friday Soup for 2023 as our "amazing soup maker" Iris, with her lovely husband Geoff, take a well-deserved break over the Christmas and New Year period.

We take this opportunity to send our love, prayers and a 'huge thank you' to Iris and Geoff for their wonderful soup of the last year. Without them we would not have raised so much money, some of which has gone towards church funds, however, in the main, donations go to CAFOD.

Please put a note on your 2024 calendar - First Friday Soup will return on Friday 2nd February: in the meantime, we look forward to seeing you on 10th November 2023. With thanks and God Bless.

Invitation to a Parish Meeting (Synod) - 7p.m. 15th November 2023 in OLA Church Hall:

All are welcome to a meeting to discuss the Parish Life Document looking at the following questions:

1. What realistic aims and objectives do we intend to address in the next 2 years?
2. What do you see as the main obstacle to growth and development of the parish?
3. Is the parish due to celebrate any significant event or anniversary in the next few years?
4. Each parish should be a community of intentional disciples. Within the realities of Pastoral life, where would you hope the parish to be in 5 year's time?
5. Has the parish history been compiled and how is it updated? If so please share with ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
6. What is your overall assessment of what needs improving/developing in the parish?

We encourage all to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 15th November.

Faith on Fire – Young People’s Group

This Faith group for young people meets monthly on the last Wednesday of the month from 8-9pm in the Hall at Christ the King and St Colman and will be back to normal for November. Young people under 18 will need to be brought by their parents to sign a permission slip for them to attend.

If you're not sure about coming just come to one and have a look, you might be surprised! It is hoped that you will suggest topics to share and feel free to speak your thoughts and feelings. This is not a teaching group but a sharing group with the leaders providing a safe place to meet. Email me if you need more information at fairmans@ntlworld.com

Marriage Encounter (ME)

If you are married or engaged have a look at the website WWWME.org.uk to have a taste of what ME is all about.

The next weekend is a residential weekend on 10th-12th November. at the Marian Centre Nympsfield (not Rugby as previously advertised). This is for couples who want to grow closer and reawaken their first love for each other, not for those in crisis. Feel free to talk to Russ and Deirdre Fairman about how good it has been

New Toddler Group - New Baby & Toddler group starting! Meeting in St Boniface Parish Hall 9.30-11am on alternate Tuesdays of term time.
Oct 31st / Nov 14th, 28th / Dec 12th £1 per family.
Contact: catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com

Bible Timeline Course

The Bible Timeline course will be taking a break and will restart on 11th January 2024 at 19:15 hours.

CKSC Christmas Cards

The repository at Christ the King & St Colman’s will soon be selling Christmas cards in aid of the Leprosy Mission.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

@PortsmouthRC
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
@PortsmouthRC
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

If you have news to share with the Diocese, contact: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

IMPORTANT if you gift aid your donations.....

A NEW UPDATED gift aid form is available in the church porch before you leave today, if you normally gift aid your donations to the parish. The only information needed on the form is your name, address and signature. This is essential in order for us to claim any further Gift Aid on your donations from now on, as our official charity number has changed. If you are a tax payer and would like to start gift aid on your donations, please also complete the form.

If you have any queries please speak to Catherine Bassom, Angela Adams or phone the Parish Office.

Across Jumbulance to Lourdes

We are planning a local (South Hampshire) group pilgrimage to Lourdes next summer: 13th-22nd June. We will travel in our specially adapted coach which is fully kitted out to meet the needs of all pilgrims, especially those who have additional needs. www.across.org

Costs will be around £1000 per person but we are planning to do some fundraising and bursaries may be available for young people (18-25) and medical/care professionals. To register an interest please contact Ruth Cunio (Southampton City Centre Parish) ruth@across.org.uk

CKSC – Youth Meetings

In CKSC, youth meetings will run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays every month from 12:30 -14:00. We encourage parents to lead their children to belong. For more information, email the office or speak to Uju Cummings.

HEWEB Holiday Bible Club Advent Celebration Activity Morning

(A time of craft, song, prayer and Bible teaching based on Advent, run by Churches Together)

**OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC
CHURCH HEDGE END SO30 0RG**

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023

10am ‘til 12pm

Ages 5-11 £2.50

ONLY 25 PLACES AVAILABLE

Register by email:

hewebholidaybibleclub@gmail.com

Sunday’s Readings – [here](#)

Diocesan eNews: – [here](#)

Daily Readings – [here](#) Reflections – [here](#)

UK Catholic Newspapers – [here](#)