

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

Website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes

BAMENDA SUNDAY: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year A, Cycle I

5th November 2023

Bamenda Sunday 2023 (from Bamenda Committee)

We shall be celebrating Bamenda Sunday in the Diocese on 4th and 5th November, when we shall be giving thanks for our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and for the ministry of the five priests from Bamenda serving in our Diocese; praying for our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region; and giving to our annual appeal to support projects in Bamenda.

This Bamenda Sunday finds us on the threshold of the 50th anniversary year of the formation of the link back in 1974, when Bishop Derek Worlock of Portsmouth met the first Bishop of Bamenda, Paul Verdzekov. They initiated the diocesan twinning as a response to the Vatican II document, *Gaudium et Spes*, which applied Scripture and the Church's Social Teaching to everyday life in the world, urging us to treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood – to look after and love one another. Initially, priests of the Portsmouth Diocese went to serve as missionaries in Bamenda, but since the decline in the number of vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese, we have been grateful for the generous ministry of Fidei Donum priests from Bamenda – currently, we have five priests serving in our Diocese and hopefully another priest will be joining them soon. The Archdiocese of Bamenda continues to be greatly blessed with vocations – 13 priests were ordained after Easter this year!

We have also been able to send grants to work in partnership with the people of Bamenda on a variety of projects over the years thanks to your very generous response to our annual Appeals. Your ongoing support is much appreciated! Many of you will be aware that since 2016 the anglophone provinces of Cameroon have witnessed appalling conflict between the armed forces and

those opposing the government, resulting in thousands of deaths and over 700,000 people being displaced – some fled as refugees to Nigeria, but thousands sought refuge in Bamenda where the Church has provided practical help with the support of Portsmouth and other charitable organizations.

In this year's Bamenda News, you can read in the newsletter how the *Laudato Si* group in Guernsey and some of our twinned schools imaginatively approached raising funds to help their brothers and sisters in Bamenda. Could our parish do something to raise funds in our Golden Jubilee Year? Please read our annual newsletter, which can be accessed online at our website –

<https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php> – where you can also donate securely and find details for bank transfers and forms for setting up a standing order and gift aid. Also, at the back of the church you will find a traditional collection plate! I realize these are difficult times for all of us, however if you can make a donation, however small, we will ensure that every penny will go to support projects in Bamenda. Thank you very much!

Most importantly, please remember to pray for the intentions of the people of Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice throughout the region. Finally, please save the date of **Saturday 6 July 2024 to join Bishop Philip and Archbishop Andrew of Bamenda at our Cathedral in Portsmouth** to celebrate Mass to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Bamenda-Portsmouth Link and experience the joy of a Bamenda Choir! Please join us in the Hall after Mass for a time for *tea and chat*. Thank you for your patience. May God bless you all.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – 5th Nov 2023

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
For the wellbeing of Harold and Patricia Luff
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
For the people
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (7th Nov - 12th Nov)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 7th 10.00am **OLA**
- Wed 8th 10.00am **SB** – Bernard Reading RIP
- Thu 9th **NO MASS**
- Fri 10th 10.00am **OLA** – Luisa Guido & Antonio Reda RIP
- Sat 11th 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 12th 9.15am **OLA**
- 11.00am **CKSC** – In thanksgiving to God for Ali Cummings on her birthday
- 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)

Our Lady of the Assumption Bamenda Sunday Celebration 5th November

On Sunday 5th November, please join us in the church hall after 9.15am Mass to celebrate with Father Elijah.

As well as tea, coffee, biscuits and cake, there will be a "Celebration Breakfast" of Bacon and Sausages baps.

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.

Entrance Antiphon *Ps 38 (37): 22-23*

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!

Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

Communion Antiphon *Ps 16 (15): 11*

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

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.

SCRATCH Christmas Complete 2023

Drop-off:

- **Sat/Sun November 18th/19th and 25th/26th**
- **From 10am to 4pm**
- **At Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall**

S.C.R.A.T.C.H. "Christmas Complete 2023" is collecting NEW TOYS & GIFTS for children who do 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. The hall will be open to accept gifts on the last two weekends of November.

There is also an Amazon wish list available on SCRATCH website or you can give financially to help purchase items in



Bible Timeline Course

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

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.

New Parish Website

Our parishes now have their own space on the Diocese's website at:

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

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

Mass Intentions and Prayers for the Dead during November

November is the month to pray for those who have died. Many of us have family, relations and friends who have died and for whom we would like to pray.

There will be envelopes at the back of church for Mass intentions and requests for prayers for the souls of those who have died.

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 in OLA Church Hall on 15th November 2023 at 7p.m.

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.

CKSC Christmas Cards

The repository at Christ the King & St Colman's is now selling Christmas cards in aid of the Leprosy Mission.

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.

For more information email 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

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

Children’s Pre-Sacramental Preparation

If you have a child who will be in Year 3 in September 2023 (or Year 4 and above if you prefer to defer their formal preparation) and you would like your child to attend some Pre-Sacramental Preparation Sessions, please let me know at helen.smale@btinternet.com.

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

The Jumbulance, specially adapted to meet the needs of all pilgrims, especially those who have additional needs is planning a pilgrimage to Lourdes next summer: 13th-22nd June.

Costs is around £1000 per person but bursaries may be available for young people (18-25) and medical/care professionals. Contact Ruth Cunio ruth@across.org.uk or visit <http://www.across.org>.

Vacancy for Housekeeper

Christ the King & St Colman, Our Lady of The Assumption and St. Brigid Parishes

A vacancy has arisen for the role as housekeeper for the presbytery of the Parishes. The role will be to provide meals for the Priest in residence and visitors as required and to assist in cleaning the presbytery.

- Part-Time: 8 hrs/week (days and times to be agreed)
- Hourly rate: £10.80 per hour

Requirements:

- Experienced cook with excellent culinary skills
- Ability to manage limited housekeeping budget
- Diplomatic, discreet with a sympathetic nature and emotional resilience
- Good time keeping
- Positive and flexible approach to work

If you would like to apply, please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for a job description and details of how to apply.

Closing date for applications: 8th Nov 2023

Sunday’s Readings – [here](#)

Diocesan eNews: – [here](#)

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

UK Catholic Newspapers – [here](#)