

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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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year A, Cycle I

12th November 2023

Seek, And Wait Wisely For The Lord

Wis. 6: 12-16; Ps. 62: 2-8; 1 Thes. 1: 13-18; Mt. 25: 1-13

Today, the thirty-second Sundays of ordinary time, year A, the church encourages us to seek the Lord and always be ready to welcome him. God, Himself is Wisdom. He who finds and receives Him will have the fullness of life in Christ Jesus. Therefore, we must ask God to grant us a share in His wisdom to know what to do at all times.

Today's first reading reminds us that "wisdom is found by only those who look for her." Here Wisdom is personified as a woman. Hence, it only takes a "wise man" to go out in search of her. The wise man does this with patience and hope and never gives up until he has found Wisdom. With Wisdom, we are better Christians and more equipped to face the challenges of this life. Without wisdom, our spirituality remains shallow and unbalanced; our religious life would be mere fanaticism. Without wisdom, we are losers in every aspect of life. With wisdom, we seek, find, and worship God who Himself is Wisdom. To find Wisdom is to find God.

In today's second reading, Paul encourages us not to bother or grieve too much about those who have died before the second coming of Christ. That is, before the Parousia. "...Do not grieve about them like other people who have no hope...God will bring them with him..." This advice is based on the hope we have in the resurrection of the dead. So, instead of worrying so much about them, the wise thing to do is worry about ourselves. What should bother us should be how prepared we are to receive the Lord. It is important to note that there is no specified time for the second coming of Christ. Paul only tells us that: "We shall see him when he appears in the sky." This means we are to be prepared at all times.

In the gospel of this Sunday, Jesus used the parable of the ten virgins to teach us how we must

be prepared and vigilant for the Parousia. Five of the virgins waiting for the bridal train were wise, while five were foolish. What separates these two categories of waiters is that the same thin line separates wisdom and foolishness, heaven and hell, or good and evil. The servant has to wait patiently for his master's to return. Therefore, the moment of waiting should not be a weary moment for us. Instead, it should be a moment of grace to be well prepared. We must not become victims of the eleventh hour.

Why were the other virgins not charitable? The answer is simple. That would have been the most stupid thing to do at that moment. This is because, halfway into the party, all the oil will finish, and everyone will be in darkness. Second, there is no excuse for the foolish virgins not to have sufficient oil in their lamps because they had the time to prepare. Jesus is on the way! His "delay" should not be an excuse for us not to be ready. Instead, it should be an opportunity to be prepared and wait for him. So, our song every moment and time must be: "For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water!"

Fr Elijah

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.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12th Nov 2023

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
For the people
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
In thanksgiving to God for Ali Cummings on her birthday
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid (West End)**
For
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (14th Nov - 19th Nov)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 14th 10.00am **OLA** *Special intention*
- Wed 15th 10.00am **SB**
- Thu 16th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 17th 10.00am **OLA** *Special intention*
- Sat 18th 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 19th 9.15am **OLA** *Special intention*
11.00am **CKSC**
5.30pm **SB** *For Sammie Cummings on her Birthday*
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: 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 88 (87): 3

Let my prayer come into your presence.

Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord

Communion Antiphon

Ps 23 (22): 1-2

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,

near restful waters he leads me.

CTIB Christmas Lights Switch On

Will take place on Saturday 18th November at 5pm in the Bitterne Precinct. The Mayor will be in attendance to perform the 'Switch On'. There will be various stalls, brass band, choir singers, Advent/Christmas display, free hot chocolate, Coles Funfair and 'Messy Sheep' activity trail for the children. This event is organised by the Churches Together in Bitterne, and we look forward to seeing you all there

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

Our Lady of the Assumption will again be a drop-off point for gifts.

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.

There is also an Amazon wish list available on SCRATCH website or you can give financially to help purchase items in case of shortages by scanning the QR code.



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.

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.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

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) 7.00pm Parish Meeting (OLA) 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)
Sat 18 th	10am-4pm SCRATCH drop-off in OLA Hall
Sun 19 th	10am-4pm SCRATCH drop-off in OLA Hall
Tue 21 st	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 22 nd	7.00-8.30pm Carer's Group (OLA Hall) 8.00-9.00pm Faith on Fire (CKSC)
Thu 23 rd	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 11am-1pm Open Church (OLA)
Sat 25 th	10am-4pm SCRATCH drop-off in OLA Hall
Sun 26 th	10am-4pm SCRATCH drop-off in OLA Hall
Tue 28 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 29 th	8.00-9.00pm Faith on Fire (CKSC)

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.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers

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 start again on Wednesday 29th November..

Young people under 18 will need to be brought by their parents to sign a permission slip for them to attend.

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 will soon be selling Christmas cards in aid of the Leprosy Mission.

Sunday's Readings – [here](#) **Diocesan eNews:** – [here](#)
Daily Readings – [here](#) **Reflections** – [here](#)
UK Catholic Newspapers – [here](#)

Advent Retreat

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." (Is.9:2) - **1st - 3rd Dec. and 4 Day Retreat at the End of the Year - 28th Dec. - 1st Jan.** Organised by the Verbum Dei community. Venue: Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight.

For more information and to register, contact: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com and www.uk.verbumdei.org

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo

3rd March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

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. Donations will be gratefully received. Friday 10th November will be the last Friday Soup for 2023. 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.

New Toddler Group –

New Baby & Toddler group starting! Meeting in St Boniface Parish Hall 9.30-11am on alternate Tuesdays of term time. 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

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.

Hedge End & West End Fundraising

We are delighted to announce that the annual Christmas Mini Mart will take place this year on **Sunday 03rd December 2023 after mass at the Church Hall in Hedge End**

Donation boxes have been placed at the back of the church in Hedge End and West End and tickets are now on sale.

Donations for stalls, the tombola and raffle, such as good quality unwanted presents, gift sets, toiletries, chocolates, any alcoholic beverages, cards, wrapping paper etc. will be greatly appreciated. Please make sure everything is either new or in very 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 brought on the day.

We also need **urgently** help with setting up on Saturday 02nd December at 10.00 am and help with the various stalls and serving tea and coffee on the day.

Additionally, we are looking for **someone who could help to organise and run the tombola**. Any offers would be gratefully received. Ticket sellers for Hedge End are also needed.

If you can help with any of the required tasks, please email beagilmartin@googlemail.com

Tickets for the Mini Mart are 50p for an adult, children are free and will include Tea/Coffee and a mince pie or a piece of Stollen.

Please help us make the Mini Mart a success, especially since we couldn't hold one the last two years, by donating goods, buying tickets, and attending the event.

Parish Web Pages on Diocesan Website

Parish web pages are on the diocesan website at:

- [Christ the King & St Colman](#)
- [Our Lady of the Assumption](#)
- [St Brigid](#)

They can also be selected from

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/