

Waiting for the Lord

Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

1 Thes 5:1-6

Mt. 25:14-30

As the liturgical year draws to a close, the church calls on us to continue being obedient and committed to Christ, our head. We must be committed to Him as excellent servants. Furthermore, we ought to be prepared to give Him a thorough accounting of our lives.

In today's first reading, Proverbs' righteous woman shines like a brilliant star. Simply put, "virtuous" means strong, effective, or capable. It alludes to moral and spiritual fortitude in this context, together with the integrity of one's character (Ruth 3:11). She is hence virtue-driven due to her commitment and strong character. The upright woman knows how to maintain her family's unity and is good and faithful. She also extends a hand to those in need. These days, the holy woman stands in for the Holy Mother Church, who sufficiently readies us to meet our Head, Jesus. Through her unwavering guidance and altruistic deeds, she equips us. This is a call for us to imitate the virtues of the upright woman. As she is to our callings and to God's mission, so too are we to be obedient and committed.

In the second reading, Paul presents to us a description of the conduct expected from a child of the light. He reminds us of the inevitable – The Lord's Day. According to him, one of the most significant characteristics of this "Day" is that it would be sudden: "It is when people are saying, 'how quiet and peaceful it is that the worst suddenly happens...'" In other words, Paul is simply encouraging us to be vigilant and active in our preparation for this day of the Lord. Paul's call is a call to readiness and to live with eternity's values in mind. If we do, we will certainly enjoy a better life than those who compromise with the world. We are therefore to live like soldiers in active service (2 Tim. 2: 4), and like the virtuous woman working to please her husband and children.

In the gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the talent to equally remind us that we must be ready to render a good account of our talents. God has endowed each one of us with different talents. Each, according to our various capacities. So, as faithful servants, he expects to render a good account of the "talents" we have received. Jesus challenges us to be prudent and productive with our talents. Most importantly, he admonishes us to live in anticipation of His inevitable return. We must not wait for this return in idleness. Rather, we must be active and industrious with the talents we have received. So, we must use our talents to the glory of God.

As trustworthy servants, we should avoid indifference, apathy, licentiousness, sloth, complacency towards our mission. These will not fetch us any reward from Christ. If we are faithful and productive with the talents we have received, Christ our head will also say to us: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I wish you all a Blessed Sunday

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.

Baptism of Matilda Rose Piga

We welcome Matilda Rose Piga who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Sunday 19th November at the 9:15 Mass.

Please keep Matilda and her family in your prayers.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th Nov 2023

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
Special Intention
(with Baptism of Matilda Rose Piga)
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Good health for Andrew More
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid (West End)**
Samnie Cummings on her birthday
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (21st Nov - 26th Nov)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 21st 10.00am **OLA** *Special Intention*
- Wed 22nd 10.00am **SB** *For the people*
- Thu 23rd 10.00am **CKSC** *For Hero Roy*
- Fri 24th 10.00am **OLA** *Special Intention*
- Sat 25th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Sun 26th 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 *Jer 29: 11, 12, 14*

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Communion Antiphon *Ps 73 (72): 28*

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

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.

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.

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.

Collection figures for CKSC for September

Offertory	£573.35
Standing Orders & Direct Debits	£2,014.50
Fundraising – Donations	£400.00
Second collections - Home Mission	£52.50

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

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	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)
Thu 30 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 11am-1pm Open Church (OLA)
Sun 3 rd	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 5 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 6 th	8.00-9.00pm Faith on Fire (CKSC)
Thu 7 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC)
Sun 10 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 12 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (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.

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.

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 need to be brought by their parents to sign a permission slip for them to attend.

For more information email fairmans@ntlworld.com

CTIB Christmas Lights "Switch On"

Will take place on Saturday 18th November at 5pm in the Bitterne Precinct. The Mayor will 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.

Our Lady of Assumption - Christmas Giving Tree

Our Christmas Gifts on our "Giving Tree" will be going to POITERS CARE (a food delivery project) which is a Catholic Organisation supporting any person or family in and around the Southampton area, of any background, who are in need.

Please place your gifts under the tree: (as early in December as you can to ensure our gifts can be distributed before Christmas: biscuits, chocolates, tins of fruit, ready-made custard, snacks, "long-life" jellies/trifles, mince pies - any "Christmas themed treats and foods" you can think of.

Please be as generous as you can. Stuck for ideas? Take a tag (or 2 :-)) from the tree and help bring some "Christmas Cheer" to people in need of our help.

Thank you for your generosity

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 Retreats by Verbum Dei

Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight:

- 1st - 3rd Dec: "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.*" (Is.9:2)
- 28th Dec to 1st Jan: 4 Day Retreat

For more information and to register, contact:

verbumdei.iow@gmail.com or www.uk.verbumdei.org

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo

3rd March 2024, £899.00 per person sharing (single supplement on enquiry). Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4-star Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast and lunch on three days, all entertainment, excursions and transport.

Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle.

Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Park Place Christmas Event – Craft Fair

The Park Place Christmas event is back again this year with local crafts for sale including all things homemade.

The Sisters and Friends of Park Place welcome you to Park Place for soup and cake and festive food and their own pickles and preserves:

- **Date:** Saturday, 2nd December
- **Time:** 10am-2pm
- **Location:** Park Place Retreat Centre, Wickham

The Retreat Centre is a magnificent Georgian house. Lots of free parking and free entry so hope to see you there!

Any profit made aids the Franciscan Sisters' many overseas projects.

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 3rd December 2023 after Holy 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 2nd 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 beagillmartin@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/