

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)

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Solemnity of Christ the King - 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year A, Cycle I

26th November 2023

Let Christ, the King of the Universe, Reign in your Life

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28; Matthew 25:31-46

The solemnity of Christ the King marks the end of ordinary time and the completion of the Church's liturgical year. Instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, this feast was created to promote devotion to the Universal Lordship of Christ in response to the growing secularism of the Western world. In 1969, Pope Paul VI gave the celebration a new title 'Jesus Christ, King of the Universe' and moved it from the last Sunday in October to the last Sunday in the liturgical year. He also transformed it from a feast to a 'Solemnity.' But what does it mean to serve Jesus as King? And what kind of kingship are we celebrating?

Our Scripture readings today present us with two different, but complementary, images of the kingship of Christ. God's image of kingship that emerges from today's first reading from Ezekiel, is that of a loving shepherd who tends his sheep with consummate care. In this reading, the Lord, the God of Israel, assures his people of his loving concern for them in words of great tenderness and compassion: 'As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness... I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong (Ezek. 34:12, 16). In his ministry, Jesus presents himself as the embodiment of the Good Shepherd, prepared to give lay down his life for his sheep. He launches his Kingdom mission in words that reflect the promises of the Shepherd King: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord' (Lk. 4:18-19).

In the second reading, from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul presents Christ as the victorious ruler of the world, the conqueror of 'every sovereignty, authority and power' (1 Cor. 15:24). And his reign will last until 'he has put all his enemies under his feet and the final enemy to be destroyed is death' (1 Cor. 15:25). Unlike the kings of this world, who attain and maintain their power by force and fear, and invariably reap a harvest of death and destruction, the kingship of Christ is a rule of love that is life-giving and life-enhancing:

'I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly (Jn. 10:10).

In today's gospel, Matthew reminds us of the rule and reign of Christ. His reign is one of justice because he will judge each one according to his or her action. He shall uphold the just and reprimand the culprit. There is no corruption, embezzlement, manipulation, or structural injustices in his kingdom or during his reign. Rather, his reign will be the reign of peace because: "...He will judge among many people, rebuking strong nations far away; and they will reshape their swords as plowshares and their spears as pruning hooks. No nation will threaten another, nor will they train for war anymore" (Is. 2, 4; Micah 4, 3). His scepter shall be peace and justice. Today's celebration will more meaningful to us if only we give Christ the highest seat and key to the kingdom of our hearts where he earnestly desires to reign. If he reigns in every heart, then he reigns in our world. If he reigns there already, then rejoice and celebrate, if not, then let us ask him today, to come in because he says to us: "I stand at the door waiting, if you open, I will come in to eat and dine with him" (Rev. 3: 20). If he reigns in you, then yours are all gains and no losses.

In conclusion, as we celebrate Christ the King of the universe today let us allow him to be truly in control of the kingdom of our heart because as the Good Shepherd, Jesus will not oppress or lead us astray as our earthly kings sometimes do. If we make the Lord our King and Shepherd, then there is nothing we shall lack, because, his goodness and mercy will follow us, all the days of our life. Of course, in the beautiful court of King Jesus' palace shall we all dwell.

I wish you all a very Blessed Sunday and Happy Celebration

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.

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26th Nov 2023

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
For Seraphine Bousquet
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
In Thanksgiving for Joan St Omer on her birthday
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid (West End)**
For the people
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (28th Nov – 3rd Dec)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 28th 10.00am **OLA** *Special intention*
- Wed 29th 10.00am **SB**
- Thu 30th 10.00am **CKSC** *Ann Marie Whitlock*
- Fri 1st 10.00am **OLA** *Fr Michael Peters*
- Sat 2nd 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Sun 3rd 9.15am **OLA** *Mary RIP, Mother of Anthea Hollington*
- 11.00am **CKSC** *Dr Pascal Mgembe, Maria Manda & Bernado Mgembe*
- 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

Rev. 5:12, 1:6

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.

To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Communion Antiphon

Psalms 29(28):10-11

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

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.

Confirmation Programme 2024

The programme for young people who wish to explore the sacrament of confirmation will be starting up in the new year. If you're interested, please register with the office. Come along, you have nothing to lose but SO much to gain!

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 is 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.

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

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 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)
Wed 13 th	8.00-9.00pm Faith on Fire (CKSC)
Thu 14 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC)
Sun 17 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 19 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.

CKSC Giving tree - Stella Maris Christmas Chocolate appeal 2023

Can you help us give Christmas chocolates to Seafarers this December?

There will be about 400,000 Seafarers working over Christmas, separated from their families and friends. Theirs is a tough, relentless life, long hours, boring, noisy, extreme temperatures, dangerous and exhausting. Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world. We want to show them that they are not forgotten this Christmas, so **we're planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents** for seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas. We need to prepare now.

Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts?

Please put your gifts under our giving tree at Christ the King & St Colman's church by 17th December. Thank You.

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 are 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

From Caritas Portsmouth

COP28 is rapidly approaching (30 Nov – 12 Dec). In [Laudate Deum](#), Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act.

Visit our website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk> for links to prayer resources.

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.

Christmas Day Lunch

This year Sholing Salvation Army are delivering hot Christmas Day lunches to people who will be homebound and unable to join in with any in-person festive activities.

If you are on your own on Christmas Day and would like a Christmas meal delivered to you, let us know!

Please call 023 80438713, leave your details and someone will call you back.

Please could all requests be with us before Friday 15th December 2023. - Thanks

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

@PortsmouthRC

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

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

Community Carol Service at St. Brigid's

You are warmly invited to a Community Carol Service at St. Brigid's at 3pm on Sunday 10th December.

We are inviting neighbours in the vicinity of the church to join us & we would welcome the support of our parish family. There will be much-loved carols & Bible readings followed by hot drinks & mince pies. Why not come along & bring a family member, friend or neighbour with you?

Contact Veronica on 07847 475806 for any queries."

Hedge End & West End Fundraising

We are delighted to announce that the annual Christmas Mini Mart will take place next **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. **We are still looking for more donations please!**

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.

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/