

Advent – Season of Great Expectation and Joyful Hope

Is. 63: 16-17. 64, 1-8; Ps. 79: 2-119; I Cor. 1: 3-9; Mt. 13: 33-37

Today marks the start of a new liturgical year, year B, and the first Sunday of Advent. Surprisingly, we switch from the gospel of Matthew to the gospel of Mark, the shortest of the four canonical gospels. As Christians, we look forward to the fulfilment of God's promise through his prophets at this time of hope. It is a season of hope, but it is also a time to be patient and to pray. Over this four-week period, we are encouraged to be ready for the messiah's birth at Christmas.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah is both a prophetic message, as well as a prayer of hope. Isaiah begins by acknowledging the greatness of God: "O Lord you are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name..." Then, he makes a petition to God: "Why leave us to stray from your ways...Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down..." This is a prayer of hope. As Isaiah rightly demanded, God will not keep silent until we are saved for salvation is what our hope in Christ will accomplish for us. Therefore, when Isaiah asks God to tear the heavens and come down, he expects God to come quickly. This is Our Lord's prayer, "...Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." It is also Paul's petition, "Maranatha!" It is the cry of the Spirit and the Bride: "Come, Lord Jesus" (CCC 2817). God's power and salvation is what we hope to see at the end of this season. That is, when God's word would become flesh and born of a virgin.

In our second reading, Paul encourages us to be faithful as we wait for the coming of Christ. Though, Paul was referring to the Parousia, his call to preparedness is the core message of this season of Advent. Our life is a long vigil, waiting for the Lord to be revealed in all his glory. So, we wait with expectation and joyful hope because His Spirit is with us. If we walk with him this season, God will not fail us because: "our expectation shall

not be cut short" (Pr. 23: 18). So, as the Spirit guides us, we must prepare prayerfully, through the help of the Sacraments. This is especially through the sacrament of reconciliation.

The gospel of today is a clarion call to be awake and alert. Only the Spirit of God can help us do this faithfully. Therefore, rather than obey the spirit of this world this season, we must obey the Spirit of God, who sustains us. So, let us have our minds fixed on him. It suffices to note that if we light up our houses and streets, without lightening up our lives spiritually for Christ to walk into it; if we prepare all things and places without preparing a manger for baby Jesus in our lives then, our preparation would not be complete.

Finally, as we eagerly anticipate the coming of the Lord this season, our hope and expectation should prompt us to be always awake and vigilant. It should make us prepare adequately in order to avail ourselves of Jesus' mercy. Therefore, our constant prayer during this season as Paul constantly prayed should be: "Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!"

Fr Elijah

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

1st Sunday of Advent – 3rd December 2023

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
Mary Hollingworth (Anthea's mother) RIP
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Dr Pascal Mgembe, Maria Manda & Bernado Mgembe
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid (West End)**
For the people
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (5th Dec – 10th Dec)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 5th 10.00am **OLA**
- Wed 6th 10.00am **SB**
- Thu 7th 10.00am **CKSC** *Gertie & Dominic Milner in thanksgiving for their marriage on their 49th Wedding Anniversary*
- Fri 8th 10.00am **OLA**
- Sat 9th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Sun 10th 9.15am **OLA** *For the repose of the soul of Sarah Barlex (Helen & George's daughter) for her anniversary next week (14th Dec)*
- 11.00am **CKSC**
- 5.30pm **SB** *For Christine Mongan RIP*
- 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

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 25 (24): 1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 85 (84): 13

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

Flowers at CKSC

Due to health reasons and Rosemary's family commitments, I am unable to continue decorating the church with flowers each week. I would be very happy if someone could take my place.

Flowers are not used during Advent but there will be a need at Christmas. Please think about this ministry and ask me any questions or for any information that is needed.

Thank you in anticipation

Maureen Sim

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.

Christmas Masses

4th Sunday of Advent (Sunday, 24th December)

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
- 5.30pm **NO MASS** at St. Brigid

Christmas Eve (Sunday, 24th December)

- 7.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
7pm Carols followed by Mass at 7.30pm
- 10.00pm **Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**
10pm Carols followed by Mass at 10.30pm

Christmas Day (Monday, 25th December)

- 9.00am **St. Brigid (West End)**
9am Carols followed by Mass at 9:15am
- 9.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Polish Mass
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman (Bitterne)**
Morning Mass

Christmas Mass Times in Woolston & Netley

Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm Family Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston

Christmas Day

- 10.00am Mass - Annunciation Church, Netley
- 11.00am Mass - St Patrick's Church, Woolston

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."

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 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)
Mon 18 th	7.00pm Penitential Service at St Edmunds 9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Tue 19 th	7.00pm Penitential Service at Immaculate Conception
Wed 20 th	8.00-9.00pm FAITH ON FIRE (CKSC) 7.00-8:30pm Carers Group (OLA)
Thu 21 st	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC)
Thu 21 st	5pm-7pm PENITENTIAL SERVICE (CKSC)
Sun 24 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (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.

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 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](#)

Prayers for Dennis Harnett

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dennis Harnett.

Confirmation Programme 2024

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

SCRATCH Christmas Complete 2023

Grateful thanks to all those who helped with the collections for SCRATCH over the last two weekends. Many toys were donated from parishioners and the local community and SCRATCH asked us to pass on their grateful thanks.



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

@PortsmouthRC

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

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

Bible Timeline Course

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

Collection Figures for CKSC

Collection figures for CKSC for October 2023:

- Offertory £344.73
- Standing Orders & Direct Debits £1875.50
- Donation from Polish Community £400.00
- World Mission (APF) £121.55
- CAFOD Family Fast Day £135.50

Hedge End & West End Fundraising

The annual Christmas Mini Mart will take place next **Sunday 3rd December 2023 after Mass in the Church Hall in Hedge End.**

- Tickets 50p for an adult, children are free
- Includes tea/coffee and a mince pie or a piece of Stollen.
- **REMEMBER TO BRING SOME CASH**

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.

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

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/