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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B, Cycle II

14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## ***“Come and See!” Responding to God’s Call***

1 Sam. 3: 3-10. 19: Ps. 39: 2-10; 1 Cor. 6: 13-15, 17-20; Jn. 1: 35-42

On this second Sunday of ordinary time, we hear the voice of God louder as always, inviting us to be his disciples. Today, the Holy Mother Church, reminds us that God’s call is real and that, God knows and calls us personally by our names. Thus, she encourages us to respond effectively to this call with our body, soul, and spirit.

Our first reading from the first book of Samuel recounts the dramatic call of Samuel. In fact, it reminds us of our own call. Many times, I have been asked, *how does God speak to one? How can I respond to God’s call?* These are very interesting questions which reflect our confusions as we see in the young Samuel today. Though we live in a very noisy world, we can still hear God, that is, if only we can discipline ourselves against the so many noises. Life is full of God’ voice. As a Father, he speaks to, and calls us to his service every day. Like Samuel, we must always be ready to say: *“Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”* However, the only problem is that most times, we are too busy or always in a hurry, that we hardly have time to listen to Him. So, we need to be always disposed to listen to God.

The second reading is part of “Paul’s moral theology.” The sin against our body as well as against the Spirit of God who lives in us impairs our ability to respond to God’s call. Hence, Paul reminds us: *“Your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God.”* This sin slows down one’s spiritual and moral growth. Consequently, it slows down the ability to respond effectively to God’s call. Through this, Paul draws our attention to the relationship between morality and spirituality. The spiritual is affected by the physical. Also, Paul reminds us that we completely belong to God. Preserving ourselves for God, is a very

important way of responding to his call. It a way of offering ourselves totally to God as, *“a living and pure sacrifice”* (Rom. 12: 1).

The Gospel presents us with the early ministry of Jesus. Testimonies about him continues especially from John the Baptist who has accomplished his mission. Today, he fulfilled his own prophecy: *“I am not he who is to come...! Surely, he was not the messiah. So, he directs all true disciples to Christ: “Behold the Lamb of God!”* Today’s gospel challenges us to reflect on our response to God’s call. As he said to his first disciples, so he says to us: *“come and see!”* Andrew invited his brother Peter with the same words: *“come and see the messiah.”* Also, after encountering Christ, the Samaritan woman invited her people with the same word: *“come and see the Lord”* (Jn. 4: 29).

At times, we need help to discern God’s call, what he wants us to do, and where he wants us to be. There are some whose call it is to help others. This was the role Eli played in the call of Samuel. This is equally the role John the Baptist played in the history of our salvation and most importantly in the life of his own disciples today. Therefore, in humility, we must seek the help of these brethren whenever we are confused about the voice we hear and the way we must follow in life. Responding to this invitation is a daily affair that requires the whole of our being. Also, it requires us to help others to respond. God calls us by our names every day: *“come follow me; come and see.”* Therefore, like the psalmist our response should always: *“Here I am Lord, I have come to do your will.”*

Fr Elijah

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

*We welcome Fr Shaun Budden who will be saying  
Mass at Hedge End and Bitterne  
on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January*

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*Sean Codell RIP*  
6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

## Weekday Mass Times (16<sup>th</sup> Jan – 21<sup>st</sup> Jan)

**OLA** – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **OLA** Requiem Mass - Dennis Harnett  
*Please pray for Dennis Harnett  
RIP and for his family*

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB** *For the people*

Thu 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Entrance Antiphon** *Ps 66 (65): 4*

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**Communion Antiphon** *Ps 23 (22): 5*

You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

### Bible Timeline Course

The Bible Timeline course is scheduled to recommence at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall at 7:15pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Any queries please contact Donald on 07508 010337 (course leader).

### OPEN CHURCH - Our Lady of the Assumption

PLEASE NOTE a change of time for Thursday's OPEN CHURCH. We will be open from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January from 10am-12 noon each week until further notice. To join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

### Dennis Harnett RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dennis Harnett RIP and pray also for his family

## 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.

## Fr. Elijah's Project in Bamenda

### The Reconstruction of the Catholic Nursery and Primary School in Ntambeng, Makon

You may already have heard of the school reconstruction project which is being sponsored by Fr. Elijah.



If not, you can go to the GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/4f57b2b0> (or you can scan the QR code) where you can also see a video which shows the urgent repairs which are needed.

Please do consider making a donation if you have not done so already. Thank you.

## QUIZ NIGHT - Our Lady of the Assumption 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Please, come and join in with our New Year Quiz Night. Details are:

- Our Lady of the Assumption church hall
- on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- from 7.00pm (to form teams) ready for 7.30pm start.

Again, no increase in price!! Tickets £5.00 per adult and children are free.

Ticket price includes tea/coffee/squash and a Ploughman's Supper.

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks and also some cash for a fun raffle!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Cathedral on 21<sup>st</sup> January:

The annual collection for the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Mother Church of the Diocese takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

The West Window began to collapse in January 2023 and cost more than £100,00 to restore. In addition the heating systems have also required repairs.

The Dean of the Cathedral has appealed for support for this second collection.

## 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 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 11am-1pm <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	12.30-2pm <b>Youth Meeting</b> (CKSC)
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-8.30pm <b>Carer's Group</b> (OLA Hall)
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm (to form teams) for 7.30pm start <b>QUIZ NIGHT</b> (OLA Hall)
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	12.30-2pm <b>Youth Meeting</b> (CKSC)
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	8.00-9.00pm <b>Faith on Fire</b> (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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10am-12 noon (OLA) after Jan 18th

**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 – except December
- **Youth Meetings** 12:30 -14:00 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month
- **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & friendly chat** in the hall every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

If you would like a future event to be included in the Calendar of Events, kindly advise the Parish office.

## The "Great Story of Jesus" retreat

The "Great Story of Jesus" retreat will be held at:

- Location:  
St Peter's Pastoral Centre,  
Winchester SO23 9SR
- Date: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Time: From 10am to 4pm

Start the new year with this retreat delivered by Sr. Margarida Mondral of the Verbum Dei Community. Refresh and reboot with a renewed appreciation of the core of our faith: the gift of the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit to animate our lived faith.

This may appeal to all who want to reflect more deeply on Jesus and how his life relates to our lives.

Please apply to Liza Nahajski for a place and more details at: [lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Leaking Porch Roof at Hedge End Church

As you are aware there has been water ingress in the porch at Hedge End. After consultation with the Diocese, the most cost-effective repair was to replace the porch roof. This was possible as funds are available from the Hedge End Repair Fund and this has enabled the work to be completed on a timely basis and reduce risk of future damage to the building.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Repairs Fund.

## 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.

Please think about this ministry and ask me any questions or for any information that is needed.

Thank you in anticipation - Maureen Sim

## 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!

## CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://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.

### **Retrouvaille: Help Your Marriage**

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times.

There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programmes:

- Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a
- Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024

call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443

or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com)

or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### **Heating at CKSC**

Unfortunately the boiler in CKSC's church has broken during its annual service. Therefore there is no heating in the church, so please dress warmly for Mass.

Please could the message be passed around, especially to those who do not receive our emails.

### **Helpers Party on Monday February 12th at 7pm in Hedge End in the Church Hall**

Everyone who is helping in church as a volunteer is invited to join in at the Helpers Party on Monday February at 12th 7pm in the Church Hall in Hedge End. A list for food and nibbles to bring will be at the back of both churches. Please come and join in for a get-together just before Lent starts.

**Churches Together in Bitterne** – AGM and service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church. Please come along and join us for the service and welcome to stay for the AGM and hear more about what we do.

### **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](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **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/](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/)

### **VACANCY**

#### **Housekeeper in Bitterne Presbytery**

A vacancy has arisen for the role of housekeeper at the presbytery of Christ the King & St Colman, Our Lady of the Assumption. St Brigid parishes:

- Position: Housekeeper
- Hours of work: Part time post, 8 hours per week, days and times to be agreed
- Salary: £10.80 per hour

The role will be to provide meals for the priest in residence and visitors, as required, and to assist in cleaning the presbytery.

Experience required for role:

- Experienced cook with excellent culinary skills
- Ability to manage limited housekeeping budget

Personal attributes:

- 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](mailto:recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

for a job description and application form.

Closing date for applications: 31 January 2024

### **CAFOD School Volunteers needed**

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry [jlewry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewry@cafod.org.uk) or phone 07710 094447.

This year we will be celebrating on the Year of Prayer as we look towards the Year of Jubilee. We'll share more in the coming months but please do get in touch if you have any ideas for how we can work together to mark the Year of Prayer and the Year of Jubilee.

We have published our Annual Report which can be found on our website. It contains a summary of our income and expenditure, an update of our key commitments and stories from our work around the world and here in England and Wales.

### **Faith on Fire**

Faith on Fire has resumed on the last Wednesday of every month from 8-9pm.

**Sunday's Readings** – [here](#) **Diocesan eNews:** – [here](#)

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

**UK Catholic Newspapers** – [here](#)