

**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

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1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent: Year B, Cycle II

18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

***Lead us not into Temptation but deliver us from all Evil!***

*Genesis 9:8-15*

*1 Peter 3:18-22*

*Mark 1:12-15*

Today is the first Sunday of Lent, a season of Renewal. The season of Lent provides us a great opportunity to shed off our “spiritually tired and weak skin.” This is in order to put on a more durable one for our journey. Therefore, on this first Sunday of Lent, the church invites us to renew our commitment with God.

Our first reading recounts the unconditional covenant between God and Noah who represents humanity. This is a covenant of renewal, recreation, and restoration. This covenant was sealed with a rainbow as a sign of God’s faithfulness.

In the second reading, Peter reminds us of God’s New Covenant with us through Christ. He paid the great price in order to restore us to God. In other words, Christ renewed and strengthened the covenant with his own blood. He did this by opening the spring of baptism through which we were purified and restored to God.

Our gospel from Mark narrates the temptation of Jesus, and the sacrifice he made in order to prepare himself for his mission and journey. From today’s text we can deduce that one passion ruled Jesus’ life: proclaiming and establishing God’s reign of justice, peace, and love on earth. His goal was not to rescue individuals from the earth and transfer them to heaven in order to save their souls. It was all about challenging people to accept God’s kingdom as it is manifested on earth. But how was he going to fulfil this mission that the Father had given him? He had no roadmap or action plan to direct him. He possessed the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that descended on him during his baptism. It was this same Spirit that, in the words of today’s gospel, ‘drove Jesus out into the wilderness’ (Mk. 1:12,) where he was tempted by Satan and guide him on how he is going to establish God’s Reign in the world.

Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness was a decisive and defining experience for him, determining the path his messianic mission would take. It led him to reject the way of violent revolution adopted by the Zealots, and

the way of easy compromise adopted by the Jerusalem elite – the Sadducees and High Priests – and to choose instead the path of redemptive (vicarious) suffering. The way of Jesus would be to turn the other cheek, to walk the second mile, and to take up the cross. He would defeat evil by letting evil do its worst to him, by suffering it in love and forgiving his enemies.

The message Jesus formulated in the wilderness and that we are called to take to heart in these days of Lent, is in the final words of today’s gospel: ‘Repent and believe the Good News’ (Mk. 1:15). This means turning away from the clutter in our lives and to listen to the One who speaks to us in nature, in people, and in the depths of our hearts. Lent is not a dreary, sad season to be patiently endured. It is a joyful season, as today’s Lenten preface reminds us: ‘Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.’

Lent, then, is a truly graced time; a time to embrace with enthusiasm ‘an offer we cannot refuse,’ a time to experience afresh the breath of the Spirit and the embrace of God’s love; and to grow in our understanding of the riches hidden in Christ. It is not a time for ‘beating up’ on ourselves and our failures; it is rather a time to focus on God’s graciousness and fidelity to his promises as the first reading reminds us – a time to imitate the example of Christ and lay claim to his victory over Satan, as our second reading reminds us. Lent is the springtime of the Spirit, a time of hope and renewal. As we prepare to renew our covenant with God, just like Christ, we must persist in prayer, fast and abstinence. We must ask God to grant us the strength to endure till the end of our own test as Christ did. Also, we must ask the Holy Spirit guide us by granting us humility, courage, and patience this season.

***I wish you all a very Grace filled Lent.***

*Fr Elijah*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*For Charles, Sarah & Sven for healing from cancer*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*For the people*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

## Weekday Mass Times (20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb)

**OLA** – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)  
**CKSC** – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)  
**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**  
Wed 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00am **CKSC NO HOLY MASS AT SB TODAY**  
Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am **NO HOLY MASS AT CKSC TODAY**  
11:00am **SB** *Funeral Mass for Leo Brown*
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am **OLA**  
Sat 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*  
Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA**  
11.00am **CKSC**  
5.30pm **SB** *In thanksgiving for the 80th birthday of Jim Ellis*  
6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

**Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tues – Fri)**  
**Sacrament of Confession is available on request**

**THERE HAVE NOT BEEN MANY MASS INTENTIONS RECENTLY**

Please consider offering Mass Intentions for families and friends (contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

## Entrance Antiphon *Ps 91 (90): 15-16*

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

## Communion Antiphon *Mt 4: 4*

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

## OLA Penitential Service 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Please note in your diaries the Penitential Service at Our Lady of the Assumption on 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 5-7pm.

## OLA Easter liturgy planning meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March

The Easter liturgy planning meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30-9pm in Hedge End Hall. All those involved in liturgy preparation in each of the churches are welcome to attend and help make this a very special parish triduum event.

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

## 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

## CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good.

Give today using the envelope or online at <http://cafod.org.uk> and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

## Mass for Forgotten Souls

On **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** we will offer up our Masses at Christ the King & ST Colman, St Brigid's and Our Lady of the Assumption for all parishioners now laid to rest but who are no longer remembered by family or friends. May their souls rest in peace.

## OPEN CHURCH - Our Lady of the Assumption

Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Hedge End is open for private prayer every Thursday from 10am until midday.

To join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

## Stations of the Cross – Hedge End

During Lent, there will be *Stations of the Cross* at **Our Lady of the Assumption** on Wednesday evenings at 7pm as follows:

- February 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>
- March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

## Confirmation

Our first meeting was on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February in CKSC church at 7.30pm.

If you missed this one and are interested in journeying with us, please contact the office. It is open to all from year 8 and above.

The confirmation Date is Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 3.30pm at the Portsmouth Cathedral.

## CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

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

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

### FEBRUARY

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> During 9.15 Mass **Childrens' Liturgy** (OLA)

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)

Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 8.00-9.00pm **Faith on Fire** (CKSC)

Thu 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

### MARCH

Tue 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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) a

### 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

### St Brigids (West End)

- **Tea, coffee & cake** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month after Mass

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

## Easter Retreat

The Verbum Dei on the Isle of Wight are holding an **Easter Triduum Retreat** at the Verbum Dei Retreat Centre from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

For more details: [verbumdei.iow@gmail.com](mailto:verbumdei.iow@gmail.com)

## Special Ministers of the Eucharist

Please can anyone who has been, is currently, or wishes to be a Eucharistic Minister contact the church office so we can update our information list.

We would like to arrange a refresher event as many of have not undertaken this ministry since the pandemic and we can also verify DBS Certificates are up-to-date.

We are especially in need of ministers who would be willing to visit parishioner at home or their place of care.

## Leo Brown

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Leo Brown RIP and also for his family. Leo volunteered for many years at St Brigid's and will be greatly missed.

## CAFOD - Big Lent Walk

The Parishes will be walking on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to raise money for CAFOD. Come and join us. We will meet at Itchen Valley Country Park at 10.30am after Holy Mass at 9.30am at CKSC.

Share the Just Giving page with friends and family <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/parishes-fund-raising-page>. For more information contact Deirdre 078 2881 0009.

## Lent Retreat Day - Our Lady of the Assumption

On **Tuesday 5th March** Sister Veronica Brennan OP, one of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, Sway will be leading us in A Day of Reflection for Lent.

The day will begin with 10.00am Mass. Tea/coffee and lunch will be provided; there is no charge however, donations will be welcomed which will go to the Sisters.

Sister Veronica will let us have full details of the day's programme nearer the time. In the meantime, please put the date in your diary and 'watch this space' for full details.

## WANTED - Rosary Beads

Please donate your spare and unused rosary beads to the Stella Maris charity in Southampton. They will be passed on to the many hundreds of seafarers and their families, where there is great demand for them.

You can post them to: Stella Maris, c/o St Edmund's Catholic Church, 14 Rockstone Pl, Southampton SO15 2EQ. Email for more information, please email

[gregory.hogan@stellamarismail.org](mailto:gregory.hogan@stellamarismail.org)

### Wild Goose

During Lent we are running a course called the Mysteries of The Rosary - the Sorrowful Mysteries, produced by Wild Goose TV. The course runs on Wednesday evenings in CKSC Church at 7.30pm from 21<sup>st</sup> February until 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

We will also run it on Thursday mornings from 22<sup>nd</sup> February after mass in CKSC, finishing on 4<sup>th</sup> April. This is an opportunity to pray together, watch a short video and to share some questions with each other.

For more information or to offer to help please call Deirdre on 078 2881 0009.

### Pilgrimage to Poland – 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Pilgrimage to Poland & the Divine Mercy:

- Chaplain to the group: Fr. Claro Conde
- Contact: 01793 881166 / 020 3720 0450
- Email: [info@allsaintstravel.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintstravel.co.uk)

### Link to St Patricks School website:

#### St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Following the loving example shown by Jesus Christ



[info@st-patricks.southampton.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-patricks.southampton.sch.uk)  
02380 448502

### 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/)

### Safeguarding - E-Learning

In accordance with the national safeguarding standards, training is mandatory for anyone who holds a role within the parish working with either

- children
- adults at risk or those who might otherwise be vulnerable.

**Training must be refreshed every 2 years.**

If your training is not up to date, please register for either face-to-face or on-line training at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/safeguarding/training/>

or scan the QR-code.

Attendees will receive certificates on completion of their training to support continuing ministry.



### DIOCESAN VACANCIES

You can view vacancies in the diocese at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

### Vacancy for a Deputy Headteacher

St Peter's School has a vacancy for a Deputy Headteacher in Sep 2024, salary range L9- L13.

St Peter's school is built on strong Catholic ethos and values. We deliver high quality, rounded education, focussing not only on individual academic excellence, but also on spiritual, moral, physical and emotional development. We have a strong leadership team, dedicated teaching and support staff and supportive governors.

For more details on the role, including the application form, please visit the school website at:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes – 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2024

Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

- Chaplain to the group: Fr. Claro Conde
- Contact: All Saints Travel on 01793 881166 or 020 3720 0450
- Email: [info@allsaintstravel.co.uk](mailto:info@allsaintstravel.co.uk)

### Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

@PortsmouthRC

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

@PortsmouthRC

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

If you have news to share, contact:

[communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### World Day of Prayer at OLA Hedge End - Friday 1st March 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of those women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns, and prayers. It is celebrated in over 146 countries. This year it is the Christian Women of Palestine who have prepared the service for us.

The theme is 'bear with one another in love'. The service for Hedge End, West End and Botley is to be held in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Hedge End at 7.30 p.m. Friday 1st March 2024.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible so that the Roman Catholic community is well represented. Refreshments will be provided in the hall afterwards.