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**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B, Cycle II**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## *Take it to the Lord in Prayer*

I am sure it seems odd to us today and quite cruel to treat someone with a severe disability by kicking them out of the community and isolating them outside the town, leaving them to fend for themselves. We are told that what the Bible calls leprosy really isn't the leprosy that we call Hansen's disease today, although some of it may have been, but included any kind of infectious skin diseases including rashes and skin discolorations caused by things like fungus. But this was a time before medicine, a time when infection meant there could be spreading of disease and separation was, in effect, the way to save the whole community, as was the case during Coronavirus lockdowns. So, when we read the Law regarding lepers in Leviticus we must understand that context. It was not meant to be cruel but to be a protection for the uninfected people. But they were not always cast out forever. Someone with Hansen's disease who was wasting away would be, but many other infections simply cleared up and there was a way of dealing with that and bringing a healed person back into the community.

The other problem with the early Jewish understanding was that there was a strong relationship between the external and the internal. Leprosy was a sign of sin, a sign of uncleanness both of which separated the person from the Jewish community. Confer especially the life of Job when he was infected, and his friends kept compelling him to confess in order to be healed.

When we look at the Gospel reading, the first amazing thing is that Jesus was approached by a leper. This was forbidden since they were to stay apart and be alone. Jesus does not run away from the man but is moved with pity for him. This is even truer because the man puts complete faith in the ability of Jesus. One wonders how he even heard of Jesus, but as anyone with a bad disease like cancer can tell you, the sick person is often looking for ways to get better, for the newest findings on the disease or for other doctors who claim to be able to heal it. The leper probably had his ear opened to find out about one of the healers who were quite common at the time. The leper's faith is such that he asks for his cure in a very unique way. He doesn't just say "cure me, please!" but he puts it in the way that gives Jesus' choice in the matter. "If you choose, you can make me

clean." Jesus responds in a like fashion: "I do choose." As the man is immediately made clean, we learn what a person has to do to be admitted back into the community. He or she has to go to a priest to be checked out, and make an offering to God for the cleansing, usually a sacrificial animal.

When Jesus asks him not to tell anyone about it, I am not sure he knows he is not being realistic in that people were going to want to know how this man with torn clothes and disheveled hair was made clean, if only so that they, too, could take advantage of such a person. What Jesus didn't want, at this point, was his fame as a healer, because that wasn't what he was really about. Healing was something he could do, and it strengthened people's faith in him, but what he really wanted to do was preach the Good News of the kingdom of heaven for conversion of sinners. Unfortunately for Jesus, however, the man told everyone.

In most of the cures of Jesus, although not in this one of the leper, Jesus also forgave sins. Perhaps with the leper he wanted to show that there was not a relationship between disease and sinning, and that one was not a sign of the other. In many of his healings though, he tried to cure both the outer and inner person, and the psalm today expresses that with the beautiful words: "I acknowledged my sin to you..., and you forgave the guilt of my sin." This same healing is still available to us today, one of the most hopeful and remarkable things about our Christian heritage. Each Sunday at the beginning of Mass, if we are truly sorry, we confess our sins and we are given absolution for them. And in our Prayer of the Faithful we say to God, "If you choose to you can cure..." And often he chooses to.

Let me close then today with St. Paul's words: whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." Let us try to make God part of our everyday life and actions, so that when we are in trouble or bad health we can come to God, like today's leper, and God will know our faith and belief, and cure us if God so chooses.

*Fr Elijah*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
Baptism: Edward Jonathan Stallard  
*For the people*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
Baptism: Rosie Chimela Chilaka  
*For the people*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*Elma Gibson RIP*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

## Weekday Mass Times (13<sup>th</sup> – 18<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 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> **Ash Wednesday**

10.00am **SB**

4:30pm **CKSC**

7.00pm **OLA**

Thu 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC**

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC**

Sun 18<sup>th</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**

**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 31 (30): 3-4*

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.

For you are my rock, my stronghold!

Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

### Communion Antiphon

*Ps 78 (77): 29-30*

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved

### Baptism of Edward Jonathan Stallard

We welcome Edward Jonathan Stallard who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February during the 9.15 am Mass.

Please keep Edward and his family in your prayers.

**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

## 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.

## 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.

## Special Ministers of the Eucharist

Have you thought of becoming a special minister? It is a privilege to serve in this way and very humbling to do this. Speak to other ministers and hear first hand what it is like. Training will be given when we know who and how many would like to investigate this essential ministry in the church.

Contact the office to put your name forward or speak to Fr Elijah.

## Baptism of Rosie Chimela Chilaka

We welcome Rosie Chimela Chilaka who will be baptised at Christ the King & St Colman, Bitterne on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February during the 11.00am Mass.

Please keep Rosie and her family in your prayers.

## Confirmation

Our first meeting was on Wednesday 7th 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 30th 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)

Thu 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	12.30-2pm <b>Youth Meeting</b> (CKSC)
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	During 9.15 Mass <b>Childrens' Liturgy</b> (OLA)
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00-8.30pm <b>Carer's Group</b> (OLA Hall)
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	12.30-2pm <b>Youth Meeting</b> (CKSC)
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.00-9.00pm <b>Faith on Fire</b> (CKSC)
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (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 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.

## Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service

Christ the King and St Colman will be hosting the CTiB (Churches Together in Bitterne) Ecumenical service of Ashes at 730pm on Wednesday 14th February.

Tea and coffee will be provided after the service. Please come along and share with our neighbour Churches. Look forward to seeing you there!

## CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day Friday 23rd 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.

## CAFOD - Big Lent Walk

The Parishes will be walking on Saturday 2nd March. Come and join us.

We will meet at Itchen Valley Country Park at 10.30am after mass at 9.30am at CKSC. The idea is to raise money and awareness to help fight global poverty.

Share the Just Giving page with friends and family <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/parishes-fund-raising-page> and commit to walking with us and getting sponsorship.

For more information watch this space or contact Deirdre 07828810009

## Lenten Retreat Day - Our Lady of the Assumption

We are so pleased that, 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. Thank you. God Bless

## DIOCESAN VACANCIES

You can view vacancies in the diocese at:

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

### **Wild Goose**

During Lent we are running a course called the Mysteries of The Rosary - the Sorrowful Mysteries, produced by Wild Goose TV.

We are running it on Wednesday evenings in CKSC Church at 7.30pm starting on 21st February. It will finish on 3rd April.

We will also run it on Thursday mornings starting on 22nd February after mass in CKSC, finishing on 4th 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 07828810009.

### **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/)

### **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)

### **WANTED - Rosary Beads.**

Please donate your spare and unused rosary beads to the Stella Maris charity in Southampton. Your spare beads 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:

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

### **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.

### **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)