

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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3rd Sunday of Lent: Year B, Cycle II

3rd March 2024

Christ is Perfect Wisdom and the Fullness of the Law

Ex. 20: 1-17 Ps. 18, 8-11; 1 Cor. 1:22-25: Jn. 2:13-25

On this third Sunday of Lent, as we continue our journey, we honour Christ as the completeness of the law and the wisdom of God. The Church is calling us today to recommit ourselves to Christ as the new temples. This is because He is the fulfilment of God's commandment.

In our first reading from Exodus, God gave the Law to Moses for Israel. So, what is the purpose of the Law? The law was given to Israel to help them become wiser. It was also given to them to strengthen their relationship with God and organize their social and religious life. Hence, the commandments of God are meant to form us into a sacred community. That is a community rooted in the genuine worship of God and a community that lives in justice and peace with one another. Therefore, we are to live as neighbours and friends, respecting one another. The ultimate and remote purpose of this is to know, respect, and worship God, our creator.

While the old law was given through Moses, the new Law (Covenant) given through and in Christ fulfils it. God reveals Himself precisely in His commandment. Hence, as the fullness of God's commandments, Christ is the channel through which God receives and loves us.

In our second reading, Paul reminds us that Christ is: "The fullness of God's wisdom." The Greeks searched for this wisdom. Unfortunately, they ignorantly rejected Him. So, instead of benefiting from Him, they were misled by the wisdom of this world. According to Paul, Christ is the fullness of the law and the wisdom of God. So, whoever finds and receives him will be filled with wisdom, and never walk in ignorance. "Whoever receives him will never walk in darkness again" (Jn. 8: 12). Darkness is opposed to wisdom. Whoever has not received Christ, though he walks according to the wisdom of this world, lives in darkness.

In today's gospel, John narrates Jesus' encounter with those profaning God's Sanctuary. His action

simply demonstrates that He is God's wisdom and the fullness of the law. His zeal distinguished him from the authorities. Instead of representing God's interest, they expressed their selfish economic and social interests. It also distinguishes him from temple pilgrims who simply visited the temple without real devotion to God.

What do we learn from today's gospel? First, we are not supposed to keep quiet or remain indifferent while things go wrong. This is especially in the house of God, our homes, offices, or any place at all, but most especially in our spiritual and moral lives. Also, we must not allow our personal intention to destroy the sanity of our Church, family, state, or country. The Church is the house of God and a place of worship. We must keep it holy and respect it. Also, it reminds us that our body and the body of Christ is the Temple of God. So, we must not defile it.

Through Baptism, we have become temples of God due to the inhabitation or indwelling of the Trinity in our soul in grace. As such, we have become living stones of the spiritual Temple of God. During this Lenten Season, especially today, we could ask ourselves: Is there anything in the temple of our soul that needs to be cleansed and driven out? Does the Lord feel at home and at ease in our heart, in our soul, in our life?

Finally, today Christ prophesied about his death and resurrection: "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it in three days." This prophecy will be fulfilled during the paschal mystery. Therefore, today's gospel keeps the events of this season in perspective. It reminds us of where we are heading to this season, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, as we march forward this season, let us continue to abide by the commandments of God fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the perfect wisdom. Let us acclaim Christ: "You, Lord, have the message of eternal life!"

Fr Elijah

3rd Sunday of Lent – 3rd March 2024

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

Weekday Mass Times (27th Feb – 3rd Mar)

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

- Tue 5^h 10.00am **OLA** *Tom Oliver RIP & deceased relatives*
- Wed 6th 10.00am **CKSC** *Funeral Mass for Eileen O'Toole*
- Thu 7th 10.00am **SB** **NO MASS TODAY**
- Fri 8th 10.00am **OLA** *For John Joseph Tumilty (father of Paul Tumilty) on the 5th anniversary of his death*
- Sat 9th 10.00am **CKSC** *For Pat O'Donovan on his birthday*
- Sun 10th 9.15am **OLA** *For Donald Hedges on his 73rd Birthday*
- 11.00am **CKSC** *Callaghan Family*
- 5.30pm **SB** *For Barbara Humphries (wife of Peter) and John Humphries (brother of Peter) RIP*
- 6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tues – Fri)
Sacrament of Confession is available on request
Please consider offering Mass Intentions for families and friends (contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 25 (24): 15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

Communion Antiphon

Jn 4: 13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

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.

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 3rd 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/West End

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

- March 6th - OLA
- March 13th - St Brigid
- March 20th - OLA
- March 27th - St Brigid

Penitential Service 22nd March

Please note in your diaries the Lent Penitential Service for our Parishes is on 22nd March from 5-7pm at Our Lady of the Assumption.

Easter liturgy planning meeting 6th March

The Easter liturgy planning meeting will be on 6th 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](#)

Daily Readings – [here](#)

Reflections – [here](#)

Diocesan eNews: – [here](#)

UK Catholic Newspapers – [here](#)

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

MARCH

Tue 5 th	10.00am LENT RETREAT DAY (OLA) 9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 7 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
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	7.00-8.30pm Carer's Group (OLA Hall)
Thu 14 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Tue 19 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 20 th	7.00-8.30pm Carer's Group (OLA Hall)
Thu 21 st	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
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 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 **March, April, May, June**, December
- **Youth Meetings** 12:30 -14:00 on 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month
- **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & friendly chat** in the hall every 1st Sunday of the month

St Brigids (West End)

- **Tea, coffee & cake** every 2nd 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.

Lenten Retreat Day - Tuesday 5th March Our Lady of the Assumption

We are delighted to now have full details of the day's programme for our **Day of Reflection in Lent** which is being led by Sister Veronica Brennan OP. one of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, Sway.

The Theme for the day: Christ The New Adam

10.00am Mass

10.30am Tea, Coffee and Biscuits

10.50am Talk - Temptation and Fall - Making sense of the story of Adam and Eve

11.30am Comfort Break

11.45am Time for Sharing - What do the failings of Adam and Eve tell us about the struggles we experience today as we try to live as sons and daughters of God?

12.20pm Lunch (details below)

1.30pm Talk - The Hour is coming!!

Understanding "The Hour" referred to in St John's Gospel

2.15pm Short Comfort Break

2.25pm Lectio Romans 5:12-21 Jesus the New Adam

2.50pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

3.30pm Departures

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO STAY FOR THE WHOLE DAY, please do 'dip in' and 'dip out' as your schedule allows.

LUNCH during the Retreat Day of homemade soup with crusty bread will be provided. There will be no charge however, donations would be gratefully received which will go to the Dominican Sisters.

For catering purposes, we really do need to have a good idea of numbers attending the day so, to sign up, please either speak with Marion Miller or Helen, or [email: helen.smale@btinternet.com](mailto:helen.smale@btinternet.com).

Sign-up sheets are also now available at the back of our 3 churches.

We look forward to welcoming and sharing faith with you. Thank you and God Bless

St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion

Did you attend or work at St George Catholic College in the 1960s, 70s or 80s?

To celebrate the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, we are inviting past pupils and staff in the 60s, 70s or 80s to join us for a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the school:

- Date: Sunday 28th April 2024
- Time: 3-5 pm

Please spread the word and save the date!

Email Jeanine Bonavia at jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk or call **023 8067 0104** to book a place by **Friday, 26th April**, so we know the numbers attending. All welcome.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

You can view vacancies in the diocese at:

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

CAFOD - Big Lent Walk

The Parishes will be walking on Saturday 2nd 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.

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 21st February until 3rd April.

We will also run it on Thursday mornings from 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 078 2881 0009.

Confirmation Sessions

Dates for the sessions are 6th March, 20th March, 27th March, 24th April, 8th May, 22nd May, 5th June, and 19th June. Please feel free to join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for the Series on the Sorrowful Mysteries at 7.30pm in CKSC church.

'First' Friday Soup in OLA Hall – 8th March

Our next Friday Soup is on the second Friday of the month for March on 8th March at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.

Please do come along and join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup and crusty bread.

There is no charge, however, donations will be gratefully received

Faith on Fire group not meeting until July

There will be no Faith on Fire for March, April, May and June, until after the confirmation on 30th June.

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

Highlights from the recent PPC meeting

- Review of Christmas highlighted that changes to timings of services for next year may be of benefit to support greater attendance.
- Plans for Easter service schedule has been agreed:
 - Penitential service: 22nd March 5-7pm OLA
 - EASTER TRIDUUM:
 - HOLY THURSDAY: St Brigid, West End 8.00pm followed by Watching until 11.00pm
 - GOOD FRIDAY: 3.00 The Passion CKSC, Bitterne
 - HOLY SATURDAY: 8.00pm Vigil Mass OLA, Hedge End
 - EASTER SUNDAY: 9.00am Mass St Brigid, West End 11.00am Mass CKSC, Bitterne
- Eucharistic Ministry – the parish needs eucharistic ministers, especially to visit the housebound. Training will be provided.
- Work continues with the formation of the Pastoral Area Southampton East. Fr. Elijah hoped this would be complete before he returns to Cameroon in 2025, however, formation is much slower than anticipated due to the engagement with other Parishes. Our Parish will continue to move forward with the process with the merger of the finances of CKSC/HE & WE which currently had separate financial accounts.
- The Next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on 16/05/24

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.



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/