

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Elijah Fru Nde (emergency use phone number 0777 466 7010)

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4th Sunday of Lent: Year B, Cycle II

10th March 2024

God's Love Abounds

2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23

Ps: 137:1-2,3,4-5,6

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

On Today, fourth Sunday of Lent, is also known as “Laetare Sunday,” the Latin word for “Rejoice” as expressed by the entrance antiphon: “Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breast.” This Sunday calls us to rejoice because we are more than halfway through with our Lenten preparations for Easter. It is unique because, the Church exalts us to rejoice in the hope of our salvation for Easter is in sight. It is also a time when we are reminded of the impending darkness that is about to engulf the Church in the passion of Christ but the same time, exhorted to be happy because there is the resurrection. Our lives at different times may have presented to us those difficult moments, times of “darkness” when our faith is put to the trial. Or moments when we just lost hope to go on believing. Midway our Lenten journey, the Church gives us a glimpse of hope to rejoice for there is a reason to our course.

Our first reading of this Sunday presents to us what seem to be the two sides of a coin. That is, the wrath and the mercy of God. These are revealed in both, the exile and liberation of his people. Three complaints were made against Israel and their leaders. These include: “*That they were unfaithful; they defiled the temple; and, they laughed at the prophets.*” This led to their deportation and exile. However, in his mercy, God decided to restore them at his own time. Hence, this reading is essentially a message of hope anchored on the grace of a loving, merciful and sovereign God. This is a demonstration of how God chose to save humanity through his only son Jesus Christ.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us of our former state and how God did redeem us: “*...When we were dead through sin, He brought us to life with*

Christ.” This is a manifestation of God’s love and mercy. Most importantly, it highlights the grace of God in action. Today, we rejoice because God has shown us mercy through his love. However, St. Paul calls our attention to a very important point and question “*...Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?*” (Rom 6: 1). Of course, the answer is, no! The reason is that, we must not take anything for granted. We have a part to play. God’s grace has been poured out to save us. However, we must reach out to fetch it.

God has saved us through grace, but he expects us to nourish the new life by living a good life. So, the purpose of saving us through his grace is clear: “*To live good life, as He meant us to live it from the beginning.*” Yes, this is what grace did for us. It restored us to the life of innocence. So, we must appreciate what God has done for us in Christ.

The gospel of this Sunday contains a very popular verse: “*God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that anyone who believes in him might be saved.*” This is the core of today’s good news and should be a source of great joy for all of us. God’s offer was free and communicates the fullness of grace. The condition of this offer is clear and simple: “*...So that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may be saved.*” This reminds us that grace is not opposed to faith. Rather, they work together. Also, it reminds us that God has made grace and salvation available this season. On our part, we must be ready to accept this offer through faith in Christ, because in Christ is our joy.

Fr Elijah

**4th Sunday of Lent – (Laetare Sunday)
10th March 2024**

9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
for Donald Hedges 73rd birthday
11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Callaghan family
5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
*For Barbara Humphries (wife of Peter) and
John Humphries (brother of Peter) RIP*
6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (12th – 17th Mar)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 12th 10.00am **OLA** *For Winifred Woodhouse on the
2nd anniversary of her death*

Wed 13th 10.00am **SB** *For the people*

Thu 14th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Fri 15th 10.00am **OLA** *In thanksgiving for the life of
Grazia Hancock RIP*

Sat 16th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Sun 17th 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

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

Entrance Antiphon

Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning;

exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 122 (121): 3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

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

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 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.

'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

Confirmation Sessions

Dates for the sessions are 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.

Second Collection Sunday 10th March

Please note that today's second collection is for the
Clergy Assistance Fund. Thank you.

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

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|----------------------|--|
| 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) |
| Sun 17 th | Children's Liturgy during Mass (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.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

You can view vacancies in the diocese at:

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

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

Stella Maris Easter Egg Appeal



Please support the local Stella Maris Easter Egg Appeal by donating Easter Egg treats to seafarers in our local ports over Easter.

Stella Maris, the Catholic charity that supports Seafarers, is planning to give chocolate treats to crew aboard ships in port along the south coast over Easters. There will be many hundreds of seafarers passing through our ports and far away from home this Christmas. It can be a very lonely time for them. The Port Chaplains are asking for any chocolate Easter Egg donations.

Please leave your gifts at Christ the King and St Colman's by Sunday 17th March. The Southampton, Fawley and Portsmouth Port Chaplains will deliver your treats to the ships.

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.

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.

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.



Collection figures for CKSC - January 2024

Loose Offertory - £180.88
Contactless Giving - Parish - £247.84
Gift Aid reclaimed on standing orders (Jul - Sep 2023) - £870.25
Standing Orders & Direct Debits - £1803.50
Direct bank payments - 0
Donation from Polish Community £500
Cathedral collection (contactless giving) - £34.41
Crib collection - £183.68

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings –[here](#):

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240310/mass.htm>

Reflections – [here](#):

<http://www.mycatholic.com/reflections/>

Diocesan eNews: – [here](#):

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communication/news/enews/>

UK Catholic Newspapers – [here](#):

<https://www.churchpaper.co.uk>

ADoRE Mini Retreat - 23rd March 10.00 -1.00

The next ADoRE Mini Retreat on Zoom is on 23rd March 10.00 -1.00

MADE HOLY BY JESUS –

How we can say, along with St Paul
"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

Guest speaker Jenny Baker,
National Leader of Celebrate Trust

Register in advance at
bit.ly/ADOREMAR2024

for more information

see www.altonrenewal.com



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

Collection figures for Hedge End & West End -- January 2024

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|---|---------|
| Loose plate | £986.30 |
| Standing orders and other direct payments | £1673 |
| Hall income | £60.00 |
| Repository | £18.00 |
| Candles | £63.56 |
| Quiz night | £392.00 |
| Cathedral | £38.22 |
| Crib | £64.31 |

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/

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