

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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5th Sunday of Lent: Year B, Cycle II

17th March 2024

Christ Is Ready to Offer Everything for our Salvation

Jer. 31:31-34;

Ps. 50:3-15

Heb. 5:7-9:

Jn. 12:20-30

Today as we celebrate the fifth Sunday of Lent, we are getting closer to our destination and the most significant points in our journey this Lenten season. This Sunday's readings all make reference to Christ who is prepared to give all for our redemption and calls on us to be prepared to give everything we have for him and others.

This Sunday's first reading gives us a reassurance of God's unceasing presence. Furthermore, it serves as a reminder of the revolutionary change that God intends to bring about among us: "I will establish a new covenant and never remember their sins; after that, I will be their God and they will be my people." God is ready to rebuild the partnership that was ruined by our unfaithfulness. His desire is to mend a damaged bond.

On our part, we must be ready to accept this new covenant with God. This new covenant offers us salvation and life. So, as we continue our walk this Lent, let us know that God is willing to fulfil his promise, and nothing can stop him. All he demands from us is to be ready to accept this new covenant made in Christ Jesus.

The second reading of this Sunday reminds us of the Gethsemane experience of Jesus. It reminds us of the great sacrifice of Christ. First, this was to fulfil the promise of his father. Second, it was to save us. "He learned to obey through suffering...he became for all who obey him the source of eternal life." Christ is willing to pay this price this season to get us going in life. He will achieve it through his prayer and suffering for humanity. He will do all these in humility and obedience, which are essential virtues we need to excel in life. Without these, Christ would not be able to achieve the new covenant for our salvation.

Today, as we see Christ carrying out his priestly and

intercessory role, we must find new courage to press on amid trials, persecution, and even doubts. Also, we must learn from His experience that suffering is necessary and inevitable in life. This is because, just like Christ, we will be made perfect through it.

The gospel of this Sunday draws us closer to our destination. Christ himself tells us: "Now the hour has come for the son of man to be glorified." What glory is there in suffering? He is about to be arrested, punished, and killed, yet he talks about his glory. Jesus saw beyond the clouds of pains and difficulties to behold success and eternal life. He knew that his suffering and death would restore life to many. So, he was not discouraged by the temporary situation of suffering. Instead, he was encouraged and motivated by the honest reward of eternal life. Hence, Christ offered his sorrow and life to restore a broken covenant and eternal life for all who believe in him. Thus, he says: "Unless a grain of wheat dies, it remains a single grain, but if it dies it yields a rich harvest."

Unfortunately, many of us do not want to follow or like this path. Jesus invites us to be strong along the way of life. He wants us to be where he is. So, we must be ready to endure as he did. We must be prepared to die as a grain dies to regenerate. Practically speaking, we "die" every day when we stand up for justice, when we stand for the truth, and when we say no to sin, corruption, and immorality. These "daily deaths" exhaust us physically, but they strengthen us spiritually. Therefore, as we continue our walk with Christ this season, the thought of his suffering and death must strengthen us daily. Also, we must continually remind ourselves that it is honourable to suffer for Christ and others.

Fr. Elijah

5th Sunday of Lent **17th March 2024**

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
For the people
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
John Whitlock
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Hanora Reading RIP
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (19th – 26th Mar)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 19th 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*
- Wed 20th 10.00am **SB** *For Colin Tillet RIP*
- Thu 21st 10.00am **CKSC** **NO MASS TODAY**
- Fri 22nd 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*
- Sat 23rd 10.00am **CKSC** *For healing and good health
of new born babies Tumilena
and Tumibella*
- Sun 24th 9.15am **OLA** *Deceased priests of the Parish*
11.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
5.30pm **SB** *Caroline Burstton 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)

Purple Coverings in Church for Crosses/Images

Crosses and images may be veiled from Saturday 16th March until after the Good Friday Liturgy.

Good Friday Walk of Witness West End

Meet in St. Brigid's Catholic Church car park, Woodlea Gardens, for an 11am start. Walking along West End High Street to the beacon at Hatch Grange Park.

We will be singing, sharing the Word and praying over the whole of West End. Everyone very welcome!

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.

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 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.

Confirmation Sessions

Our next session is on 20th March at 7.30pm in Christ the King and St Colman Church. This session will be focussed on Jesus, the son of God. The registration for this year is now closed but look out for the start of Faith on Fire in the Summer. The following confirmation session will be on 27th March which will focus on the Holy Spirit. Yes, this is only a week from the last one but we will be having a break for Easter!! See you there or at Mass. Deirdre and Richard

Marriage Encounter

The next weekend for priests and couples is 13-14th April 2024 in Corpus Christi, Boscombe. Come and rediscover your vocations and the joy from getting to know your spouse and self in a deeper way. It is a non-residential which means the sessions are held from 9am till 5pm on the Saturday, and from 8.30am to 4pm on the Sunday. To book please go to the website wwme.org.uk. Please talk to us Deirdre and Russ if you want to know a bit more.

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.

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

Sun 17th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)

Tue 19th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Wed 20th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)

Thu 21st 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Sun 24th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)

Tue 26th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Wed 27th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)

Thu 28th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

10am-12 noon **Open Church** (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 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.

Hedge End/West End February Collections

The monthly collection figures for Hedge End and West End are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Looseplate | £1,069.05 |
| • Standing orders/direct payments | £1,609.00 |
| • CAFOD | 387.68 |

Easter Triduum & Penitential Service

Penitential service: 22nd March 5-7pm OLA

EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY

8.00pm St Brigid, West End

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

Choir for Easter Triduum

Ahead of the Easter Triduum we are looking for volunteers from all our parish communities to form a choir. There is no need to attend a practice as the music chosen is well known, but arriving about 20 minutes early for the service would be helpful to run through things. Seats will be reserved in each of the churches for the choir.

Easter Vigil Baptisms

As this year we don't have any adult baptisms planned for the Easter Vigil, we would like to make it available for any families looking to have their child baptised to do so during the Easter Vigil. If this is something you would like, please contact the Parish office to complete a request form.

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 Seafarers, is planning to give chocolate treat 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.

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

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



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.

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.

Help Wanted moving Furniture

Do you drive a big car or van? We are needing to remove two sofas from the presbytery at CKSC and could do with some help.

If you're able to help, please could you contact the office. Thank you.

Help Wanted - Holiday Bible Club this August

Can you help at our Holiday Bible Club this August? It's run by Churches Together in Hedge End, West End & Botley. Monday 5th to Friday 9th August 2024, 09.45a.m. to 12.30pm. For children aged 5 to 11 years. Great fun for kids & adults alike!

Held this year at Hedge End Methodist Church Hall, 42 St. John's Road, SO30 4AG. For further info, please contact Veronica Hoskins 07847 475806.

DBS check required but simple to obtain.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

You can view vacancies in the diocese at:

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

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/

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings – [here](#):

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

Reflections – [here](#):

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

Diocesan eNews: – [here](#):

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

UK Catholic Newspapers – [here](#):

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

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