

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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Easter Sunday: Year B, Cycle II

31st March 2024

‘Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns’
(St Clement of Alexandria)

We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song. The Easter liturgy makes it clear that the center piece of the great drama of salvation is the passage of Christ from death to new life. In Christ not only is death defeated but even our fallen condition has become no longer a curse but a cause of rejoicing. Because of Christ’s resurrection, we can shout triumphantly in the words of the Exsultet: ‘O happy fault that brought us so glorious a Redeemer’.

In the first reading of today, Peter states that Jesus’ Resurrection from the dead was the direct action of God: ‘God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen’ (Acts 10:38). The Resurrection is God the Father’s response to the Cross. It is the Father’s affirmation of everything that Jesus preached and did, everything for which he lived and died. It is the definitive answer of the Father to a world that sought to silence Jesus forever, the supreme manifestation of the power of God’s Love – a love that is stronger than death, or hatred, or injustice. And it is the final word between God and humanity in the dialogue of salvation: the great Amen of God, not just to humanity, but to all creation.

The gospel reading from John recounts the disciples’ discovery of the empty tomb. The story begins in the dark with Mary Magdalene’s visiting the tomb of Jesus ‘very early in the morning (Jn. 20:1). When she reaches the tomb, she sees that the stone covering the entrance has been rolled away. She interprets this to mean that the body of Jesus must have been stolen: ‘They have taken the Master out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have put him’ (Jn. 20:2). She runs off to relate her disturbing discovery to Peter and John, who immediately ran to the tomb. John, being the faster runner, gets there first. Looking into the tomb, he sees the linen cloths that had wrapped the body of Jesus lying here. He then waits for Peter who goes into the tomb ahead of him and sees exactly what John has seen. The climax of the story comes when John, the beloved disciple, in

contrast to Peter, who is simply perplexed, realizes the significance of the discarded linen wrappings, and knows that Jesus has truly risen from the dead: ‘He saw, and he believed’ (Jn. 20:8).

Our second reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians reminds us of what Jesus’ resurrection means for us, his disciples. By our baptism we have died with Christ and have come to share in his new, risen life. Easter challenges to commit our lives more fully to our risen Lord who has conquered the powers of darkness and ‘turned all our sunsets into dawns’ (St Clement of Alexandria). Hence, ‘we must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand’ (Col. 3:1). We must live as people possessed with an unquenchable hope of Easter. In the words of Pope Francis ‘Jesus is a specialist at turning our deaths into life, our mourning into dancing. With him, we too can experience a Pasch, that is, a Passover from self-centeredness to communion, from desolation to consolation, from fear to confidence. Let us not keep our faces bowed to the ground in fear but raise our eyes to the risen Jesus. His gaze fills us with hope, for it tells us that we are loved unflinchingly, and that however much we make a mess of things, his love remains unchanged. This is the one, non-negotiable certitude we have in life: his love does not change.

On this Easter Sunday morning, let us rejoice and are be glad because Christ our Lord is Risen. Death, and all that is negative within ourselves and in our world, has no longer any power over him. And with him we too are victorious, for now nothing can come between us, and the love of God made manifest in Christ – manifested supremely in his glorious resurrection from the dead, Alleluia!

I wish you all a very Happy Easter

Fr. Elijah

EASTER VIGIL**30th March 2024**8.00pm **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)**EASTER SUNDAY****31st March 2024**9.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
*Polish Mass*9.30am **St. Brigid** (West End)
*For the wellbeing of Clare O'Brien*11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
*Maureen Hawkes RIP - Remembering a wonderful mum & nanny on what would have been her 90th birthday***Weekday Mass Times (2nd - 7th April)****OLA** – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)**CKSC** – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)**SB** – St Brigid (West End)Tue 2nd 10.00am **OLA** *For the intentions of Peter & Maureen Klapprott*Wed 3rd 10.00am **SB** *Thanksgiving to God for Fr Elijah on his 11th priestly ordination*Thu 4th 10.00pm **CKSC** *For the healing of Bernie McDonagh and for all McDonaghs*Fri 5th 10.00pm **OLA** *For the people*Sat 6th 10.00pm **CKSC** *For the people*Sun 7th 9.15am **OLA** *In thanksgiving*11.00am **CKSC** *For the people*5.30pm **SB** *For the wellbeing of Helen O'Sullivan*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)****Easter Celebration****Refreshments following Easter Vigil Mass**

Following the celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass there will be refreshments in the hall: cake, nibbles, etc. tea, coffee, orange juice, Bucks Fizz or, perhaps... a glass of "Celebration Fizz".

Please do come along if you can, to celebrate as a Community of Faith, the joyful Feast of Easter.

Please bring along a plate of food to share.

We wish you a Blessed Easter and look forward to welcoming you. God Bless

Second Collection – Good FridayKindly note that the second collection on Good Friday 29th March is for Holy Places**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.

Invitation to Marriage CelebrationElaine Aplin and Elliott Coe invite you to join with them to celebrate their marriage from 12 noon on Saturday 13th April at Christ the King and St Colman, followed by refreshments afterwards.**Baptism of Alexa Eken**

We welcome Alexa Eken who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Please keep Alexa and her family in your prayers.

Baptism of Karen Nkwenti

We welcome Karen Nkwenti who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Please keep Karen and her family in your prayers.

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.

Easter Collections:

Your Easter Donations via the Give as you Live websites, would be sincerely appreciated:

CKSC: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-christ-the-king-and-st-colman-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024>**OLA & SB:**<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hedge-end-our-lady-of-the-assumption-and-st-brigid-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024>**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.

Christ the King & St Colman Easter CelebrationsWe will be needing to get our church ready for our Easter celebrations. So, we invite parishioners to come together to help at Christ the King & St Colman from 10am Saturday 30th March. Please come and join us. 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)

APRIL

Tue 2 nd	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 4 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Tue 9 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 11 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Sun 14 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 16 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 17 th	7.00-8.30pm Carer's Group (OLA Hall)
Thu 18 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Sun 21 st	Children's Liturgy during Mass (OLA)
Tue 23 rd	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 25 th	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)

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 View vacancies at:

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

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!

St Anne's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

The Governors of St Anne's Catholic School are looking to appoint a Chaplain.

Grade 7 Pt 19 to Pt 25

(Pro rata £24,213 to €27,602)

35 hours per week, Term time only

Required as soon as possible

The governors of St Anne's Catholic School seek to appoint a Lay Chaplain for the school who is a committed disciple of Christ to nurture the faith in the LSU tradition as well as to look after the needs of our diverse community. We will consider a full-time (term-time only) or part-time role for the right candidate.

St Anne's is a highly successful 11-16 girls' school with a mixed sixth form in the heart of Southampton.

Specifics for this role

The successful applicant will be a practising Catholic with a deep commitment to his/her own faith and a passion for evangelisation to and working with young people.

Closing date: midday, Friday 19th April 2024

Interviews: TBC - We reserve right to interview early for the right candidate.

Application forms and further details can be obtained from www.st-annes.uk.com Alternatively, please contact the Head's PA via email pahead@st-annes.uk.com or call 023 8032 8200.

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 Deirdre and Russ if you want to know a bit more.

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.

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

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.

Figures for CKSC for February 2024

Loose Offertory - £232.62

Contactless Giving - Parish - £158.36

Standing Orders & Direct Debits - £1878.50

Donation from Polish Community - £400

Hall Rent - £740

CAFOD (contactless giving) - £117.99

Day for Life (cash & contactless giving) - 139.41

Gift Aid reclaimed (GASDS) - £253.96

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings – [here:](#)

<https://universalis.com/europe.England/20240324/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>

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/

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.

Advert for HEWEB Treasurer

At Churches Together in Hedge End, West End & Botley (HEWEB) we need a volunteer to be our Treasurer. The role will take up very little time as there are few transactions each month. The main task is to keep an eye on the HEWEB bank account & provide a brief report to the committee once a month. There are occasional payments for items such as out-of-pocket expenses, room hire & insurance. You will also be responsible for collecting annual subscriptions from member churches.

If you think this is something you would like to do, please contact Veronica Hoskins by phone on 07847 475806 or by email at veronica.hoskins@gmail.com

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