

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)

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Michael Ingram (safeguarding.soukc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Office: 2 Dean Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO18 6AP – Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am–1pm

Phone **023 8044 9088**, Email ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/>

2nd Sunday of Easter: Year B, Cycle II Divine Mercy Sunday

7th April 2024

'Mercy as our Light'

Today is both the Second Sunday of Easter and the feast of Divine Mercy. This Sunday is at times also called "Doubting Thomas Sunday" because, traditionally the Gospel text read on this day recounts the encounter between Jesus and Thomas, the one who doubted his resurrection. Another interesting name for this Sunday, which is the octave day of Easter, is Low Sunday, a name which originated in the England and Ireland in the Middle Ages to differentiate this Easter octave day from Easter Sunday itself, which was called Hight Sunday.

Today's meditation invites us to Come to the Boundless Mercy of God! God's mercy has always been with mankind, yet how little did mankind know and appreciate God's mercy, reason why the Lord himself deigned to set aside this day as the Feast of Mercy! This he did through the saintly Polish Nun, St. Faustina. The institution of this feast by Jesus himself is a final wakeup call to a world that is indifferent to the great acts of God's mercy. In His infinite goodness God created the world with the human being at the helm of his creation; in pride and arrogance humanity rejected God through our first parents, Adam and Eve; yet, God in his infinite love and unfathomable mercy reached out to mankind with the offer of salvation, which in the fullness of time, he has made manifest in an unspeakable manner in His Only Begotten Son, incarnate, who suffered, died and was buried, and now risen from the dead, redeeming the world. In Jesus Christ, we see the "Face of God's Mercy" – He is God's *Misericordiae Vultus!*

In the Divine Mercy Diary, no. 341 is recounted an encounter between Jesus and St. Faustina on November 5, 1934. Sister Faustina said to Jesus, "I am very surprised that You bid me to talk about this Feast of Mercy, for they tell me that there is already such a feast..." But Jesus insists: "And who knows anything about this feast? No one! Even those who should be proclaiming My mercy and teaching people about it often do not know about it themselves. That is why I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it." These are the words of Jesus demanding the establishment of the Feast of Mercy.

Pope Saint John Paul II, on April 30, 2000, officially designated the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday and inserted it in the General Roman Calendar. It was on this same day that he canonized the servant of God's Mercy, Sr. Faustina. John Paull II was a "Pope of Mercy" par excellence. How providential that it was on

this same Feast – April 27 - Divine Mercy Sunday 2014 he was canonized!

Today's Gospel text concretely shows us something of the unsearchable depths of God's mercy. We see there the unconditional offer of peace to his fearful disciples; the unconditional forgiveness of their failures and doubts (during his Passion) as he now appears to them after his resurrection so as to strengthen their faith; the unconditional offer of mercy and the gift of faith to the doubting Thomas; and above all, the institution of the Sacrament of Mercy – Confession - in the words: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." (Cf. Jn 20:19-23, 24-31). There is hardly any offer of Mercy so concrete and real as the underserving forgiveness which God gives us in Jesus Christ. Yet how indifferent, at times even hostile, do we tend to be toward such a great gift; like when we disregard the celebration of the sacrament of Confession or question its celebration at the hands of the priest, minister of God's mercy, who himself, unworthy as he is, lives and ministers only because of God's mercy.

Dear friends, it doesn't matter what baggage of recurrent sins we carry; it doesn't matter how long we have strayed from God; it doesn't matter how shameful we think what we have done/said or failed to do is; it doesn't even matter how many times we directly insulted and rejected God; all what Jesus is asking is that you open up your heart to the fountain of mercy which he is pouring out today upon the whole world. Veneration of the Divine Mercy image; taking the Divine Mercy Novena (especially prior to this great feast); Praying the 3 O'clock Prayer; reciting the Divine Mercy chaplet; preaching the Mercy of God to others; being merciful to others; and participating in the Sacraments of Mercy (especially the Eucharist and Confession) are all channels of tapping into the unfathomable mercy of God. On this feast day, the following practices have attached to them a plenary indulgence, that is, complete forgiveness of sins and all punishment due to sin: - Go to Confession; - Receive Holy Communion; - Adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and recite the Creed and the 'Our Father'; - Invoke Jesus through the prayer: "Jesus, I trust in you"; - Venerate the Holy Image of the Divine Mercy; - Have the intention of receiving God's mercy.

Fr. Elijah

Divine Mercy Sunday **7th April 2024**

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
In thanksgiving
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For the people
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
For the wellbeing of Helen O'Sullivan
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (9th - 14th April)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

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|----------------------|---------|-------------|---|
| Tue 9 th | 10.00am | OLA | <i>For Stephen Byrne RIP</i> |
| Wed 10 th | 10.00am | SB | <i>Callaghan & Young families</i> |
| Thu 11 th | 10.00pm | CKSC | <i>For the people</i> |
| Fri 12 th | 10.00pm | OLA | <i>Pearson & Callaghan families</i> |
| Sat 13 th | 10.00pm | CKSC | |
| Sun 14 th | 9.15am | OLA | <i>Josephine and Michael Shepherd RIP</i> |
| | 11.00am | CKSC | <i>Patricia Rose (on her 100th Birthday)</i> |
| | 5.30pm | SB | <i>For the people</i> |
| | 6.00pm | CKSC | <i>Polish Mass</i> |

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)

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.

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>

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.

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 Celebration

Elaine 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.

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.

Baptism of Sara Emmanuel

We welcome Sara Emmanuel who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End on Saturday 6th April at 11am. Please keep Sara and her family in your prayers.

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.



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

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

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)
Tue 30 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (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.

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.

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.

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

DIOCESAN VACANCIES View vacancies at:

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

ADoRE mini-retreat for spiritual renewal

27th APRIL 2024

LIVE OPTION

Venue: St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX

Timing: 9.30am - 3.30pm (see programme below).

Please bring food for shared lunch!

Guest speaker: Kristina Cooper, former editor of "Good News" magazine.

LIVESTREAM OPTION

The morning session 9.30-1.00 will be live-streamed on Zoom: please register in advance for the link at bit.ly/ADOREAPR2024

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/

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

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.

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings – [here](#):

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240407/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>

