

**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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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: Year B, Cycle II

21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

***'The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep' (Jn. 10:11)***

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, a day on which the Church invites us to reflect on the meaning of God's call and to pray for vocations to the service of the Church and its mission. To help us reflect on the meaning of vocation – a call to serve others – today's Gospel, presents us with the figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. One of the most popular images of pastoral care is that of the shepherd who watches over his flock, leads them to green pastures, and protects them from harm. Christ the good shepherd is our role model of love and care. If we obediently continue to listen to him, and to follow him, he will lead us safely to our destination in heaven.

In our first reading, Peter testified through his miracle and testimony that Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for his flock. It is His wish to heal us. So as his flock, he is with us always. He watches over us and guides us through life. Whenever we call upon Christ our good shepherd in faith, he hears and answer us according to the purpose of his will. The Apostles were very much aware of the divine and protective presence of Christ the good shepherd. So, whenever they were in need they turned to him for help. Peter testifies to this: "It was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth... This is the only one by which we can be saved." There is power, salvation, healing in the name of the risen Christ, our Good Shepherd.

Our second reading presents us with one very important attribute of Christ the Good Shepherd. That is, love. John reminds us of this: "Behold the great love that the father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God." The only love comparable to the love of the good shepherd is the love of a mother for her baby (Is. 49:15). Christ demonstrated this love for us by offering his life as a sacrifice and ransom for our salvation. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn. 15: 13). So, we must emulate Christ as our model of love and care.

In today's gospel from John, Jesus tells us: "I am a good shepherd: the good shepherd is the one who lays down his life for his sheep... I know my own, and my own knows me... they listen to my voice..." From this we learn two important lessons. The first is, the role and characteristics of a good shepherd. The second is the duty and response of the flock. The good shepherd knows and takes care of his flock. He is patient, he loves and never harms his own flock or sheep. A good shepherd is readily available for his flock. He is ready to make sacrifices for their good. On the other hand, a good flock listens to its shepherd. It obeys his instructions and follows him with trust and confidence. In other words, there must be a good relationship and understanding between a good shepherd and his flock.

The celebration of Christ the Good Shepherd today reminds us that we are shepherds, as well as flocks. This is because each one of us is occupying one leadership position or the other. So, who is a good shepherd and where can we find one? We find one, in every good mother or father, in an honest president or governor, in a holy and caring priest. We can find a good Shepherd in every humble and God-fearing youth, in a caring brother or sister, and in every just and respectful police officer. Where there is a caring doctor, a dedicated teacher, a good cook, cleaner or gardener, there is a good shepherd.

Finally, today the church provides us another good opportunity to pray for the Holy Father, all the leaders of the church, families and the world, most especially for vocations to serve as priests and religious in the Church. With our hope and confidence strongly placed in the risen Christ let pray: "The Lord is my Shepherd there is nothing I shall want" (Ps 23). Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Fr. Elijah*

## 4th Sunday of Easter 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*In thanksgiving*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Josephine Eyston Elwes*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*Marion Lloyd on her birthday*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

### Weekday Mass Times (23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April)

**OLA** – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*
- Wed 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB** *For the people*
- Thu 25<sup>th</sup> 10.00pm **CKSC** *For the family of Eileen O'Toole*
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00pm **OLA** *For Sister Mary Frances RIP (Poor Clare) and the sisters of the Poor Clares' Convent*
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00pm **CKSC** *For the people*
- Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA** *For the people*  
11.00am **CKSC** *For the people*  
5.30pm **SB** *Siobhan Waters 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)**

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 are especially in need of ministers who would be willing to visit parishioner at home or their place of care.

### 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.



### 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.

### ROSARY RALLY - Saturday 27th April at 3pm Commercial Road, Portsmouth

Parishioners from churches all across the Diocese will be attending a Rosary Rally by The Marian Franciscans next to the QE2 Silver Jubilee Fountain in Portsmouth City centre, to combat these evil times that we find ourselves in and to make reparation. Please come along. Now is the time we pray, offer sacrifices and to act for the salvation of souls!

### Confirmation

Our next meeting is Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the usual place. Looking forward to seeing you all. Happy Easter time.

### 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup> **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)
- Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 24<sup>th</sup> 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)
- Tue 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

### MAY

- Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)  
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup> 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)  
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 9<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month
- **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & friendly chat** in the hall every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

### St Brigids (West End)

- **Tea, coffee & cake** every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Clergy Training Fund Appeal Second Collection on 21<sup>st</sup> April

Each year we make an appeal to support the Clergy Training Fund in response to the ever-increasing costs of training priests and deacons to serve in our Diocese.

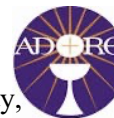
There is no state funding for seminaries or for the formation of permanent deacons and so the money required to provide each student with accommodation, living costs and tuition for a number of years needs to be found from the generous support of people who contribute to this fund.

The Clergy Training Fund is also used to finance the on-going formation of diocesan clergy, whether it be for professional studies or to support the educational costs for those on sabbatical.



Please support the Clergy Training Fund at:  
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/clergy-training-fund-second-collection-2024>

## ADoRE Mini-Retreat for Spiritual Renewal 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024



### LIVE OPTION

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

Timing: 9.30am - 3.30pm

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

Please bring food for shared lunch!

### LIVESTREAM OPTION

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

## EARTH DAY, Monday 22nd April:

This international day on the environment has been strongly endorsed by Pope Francis. This year's theme is 'Planet vs Plastics', and we're asked to take new actions to help reduce plastic production. Find ideas at <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>  
See the Holy Father's Apostolic Exhortation urging us to save the planet at [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)

## St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion Date: Sunday 28th April 2024. -- Time: 3-5 pm

Reminder!! Email Jeanine Bonavia at [jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk](mailto: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

Thank you for your support.

## Hedge End & West End Income- March 2024

Loose plate	£1,213.49
Standing orders and other direct payments	1,562.50
Candles	26.52
Flowers	86.54
Table tennis	211.20
Hall income	90.00
Fund raising	30.00
Second collections:	
CAFOD	154.80
Clergy Assistance Fund	265.20



## STELLA MARIS – CALL TO PRAYER

(6th to 10th May)

STELLA MARIS

Dear Parishioners, we have been invited, as a joint Parish, by Stella Maris to take on one week of a 50 week Ring of Prayer around the UK. This is in support of Seafarers, Fishers, SM Chaplains and the Ocean Environment

Stella Maris Rosary Prayer will take place before weekday Masses, at all three of our Churches, starting 09:30am. We are further encouraged to pray as families, at home, on each of the days allocated to us, using specific prayers for each day. This is a beautiful way to support Stella Maris and introduce our children to Rosary Prayer, and the joy of praying for others.

Full details of the prayers for each day can be found on this website -<https://sailingpilgrimages.co.uk/ring-of-prayer/>.

Contact Russ Fairman for more information

[russ.fairman@gmail.com](mailto:russ.fairman@gmail.com)

Mobile: +44 (0) 7985 433953

## Sunday's Readings:

### Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240421/mass.htm>

### Reflections

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

### Diocesan eNews

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

### UK Catholic Newspapers

<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/](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/)

## Red Box 2023: Thank You



In 2023 Our Parishes raised £1,024.67 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of Missionary Priests, like Fr Ignatius MHM working with a rural community in Uganda, enables people to come together to celebrate the Eucharist and to work together to improve the lives of the whole community. Visit [mission.org.uk](http://mission.org.uk) to find out more.

## Lord Mayor of Southampton's Charity

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm, as one of her final acts as the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Valerie Laurent will as 'Admiral of the Port', host the traditional Rogation Service on board the prestigious steamship, SS Shieldhall celebrating the Solent Waters.

All those who wish to celebrate the importance of the Solent waters to Southampton in providing a recreational, business and natural resource, are invited to join her.

A service will take place followed by refreshments with musical accompaniment by the Albion Band and Sea shanties sung by the Southampton Salty Sea Dogs. The event is ticket only for a £5 donation to include refreshments and available through Eventbrite [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blessing-of-the-waters-tickets-658568214257?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blessing-of-the-waters-tickets-658568214257?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1).

Participants will also have an opportunity to visit the engine room.

All funds will go to the Lord Mayor's three chosen charities: Saints Foundation, the Southampton Sea Cadets, and Southampton City Farm and the SS Shieldhall.

## DIOCESAN VACANCIES

View vacancies at:

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