

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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Pentecost: Year B, Cycle II

19th May 2024

‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ (Jn. 20:22)

Acts 2:1-11 1Cor 12:3-7 Jn 20: 19-23

Pentecost literally means 50th. It is a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover feast by the Jews and a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the Resurrection of Jesus by Christians. While it may not be quite accurate to speak of this day as the birthday of the Church, it is certainly the birthday of the Church’s mission – the Church as a Spirit-filled community sent out, in the name of the Risen Christ, to proclaim the gospel to all creation. On this day of Pentecost: 1) The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary as tongues of fire. 2) The frightened apostles were transformed into fiery preachers and evangelizers and were given the gift of tongues by a special anointing of the Holy Spirit. 3) The listeners experienced a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit through the apostles’ gift of tongues: they heard Peter speaking in their native languages. 4) The early Christians became powerful witnesses and brave martyrs for their Faith in Jesus.

The readings today remind us of three important truths about the Church and its mission: first, that the Church is essentially missionary; second, that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of Mission; and third, that the goal of mission is to create a unity that embraces diversity. A few words on each of these points.

The Church is, in the words of The Second Vatican Council, ‘missionary by its very nature’. Mission is something the Church is, before it is something the Church does. In proclaiming and witnessing to Christ, the Church is expressing its nature as God’s pilgrim people. All its members, all those baptized in the Spirit, are called to be missionaries, and not just priests and religious. If the Church ever stopped reaching out to others to witness and proclaim the Gospel of Love, it would cease to be the Church of Christ. In his first Encyclical Letter, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis reminds us that the true Church ‘is a Church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security’. In the words of the great theologian, Emile Brunner, ‘the Church exists by mission just as fire exists by burning’ And the fire that burns in the heart of the Church and keeps her alive in mission, is the fire of the

Holy Spirit, as today’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles illustrates.

From the dawn of creation, God’s Spirit has been present and active in the universe. This is beautifully expressed in the biblical account of creation, which describes the Spirit of God hovering over the waters and bringing order and life out of chaos (Gen. 1:1-3). The Spirit, as Pope John Paul II has reminded us in his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Mission of the Redeemer*, is present everywhere in the world leading and guiding people along the path that leads to God. It is this same Spirit who is the principal agent of the Church’s mission. We, the members of the Church, are simply instruments in her hands. When we forget this truth, we risk becoming agents of an enterprise that has little or nothing to do with the promotion of the Gospel. The first challenge of missionaries is to attend, to listen, to discern and to collaborate with what God’s Spirit is already doing in the world. Mission and dialogue go hand in hand.

The goal of all mission in God’s name is to create a unity that respects and embraces diversity. Pentecost reverses the confusion of Babel (cf. Gen. 11: 1-9). On the day of Pentecost, as the first reading tells us, people of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds were gathered for the Jewish Harvest feast (Shavuot). As they spoke different languages, they were unable to communicate with one another. However, they were all able to understand the message of the Spirit-filled apostles. ‘Surely, they said, all these men speaking are Galileans. How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own language?’ (Acts 2:7-8). The miracle of Pentecost was a miracle of mutual understanding, a restoration of the unity humanity lost at Babel. Today we might ask what gift of the Spirit, what language do we need so that everybody can understand no matter what their ethnic or linguistic background is? Yes, there is such a gift, such a language. It is the language of Love – a language sorely needed in our world today. Love is the language of the Spirit.

Happy Pentecost to you all and a very blessed week ahead.

Fr. Elijah

Pentecost

19th May 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Simpson family & deceased relatives
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
People affected by war
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Deceased teachers of La Sagesse school
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (21st – 26th May)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 21st 10.00am **OLA** *Josh Solomon undergoing brain surgery today*
- Wed 22nd 10.00am **SB** *Callaghan & Pearson family*
- Thu 23rd 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 24th 10.00am **OLA** *Special Intention*
- Sat 25th 10.00am **CKSC** *Margaret Mary Miller RIP*
- Sun 26th 9.15am **OLA** *For the people*
11.00am **CKSC** *Frank & Margery Wearden RIP*
5.30pm **SB**
6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

Second Collection next Sunday (19th May) is for the Catholic Communication Network 2024

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 Collections:

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

CKSC: [https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/soouthampton-christ-the-king-and-st-colman-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024](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>

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

Pentecost May 19th

Save the date!! We will have an international feel to the Mass at CKSC followed by an international shared lunch. Please bring something representative of your culture!! All welcome to join us for mass, lunch or both.

Christ the King & St Colman's car park closure

Please note that the car park at Christ the King & St Colman's will be closed on Sunday due to our international shared lunch.

Wedding of Clare O'Brien & Nicholas Hayes

Congratulations to Clare O'Brien and Nicholas Hayes who celebrate their marriage at 1.00pm on Saturday 11th May at St. Brigid's Church.

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.

CKSC Repository

New boxed rosaries, in many different colours, are now in stock at the back of church. Cost is £6 each, and payment may be by cash in the long red box or via the contactless machine – category 'Repository'.

A new selection of Thank-You cards and blank cards is also available, plus cards for all the usual occasions, all at £1 each.

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.

St Colman's celebration BBQ – 9th June

St Colman's celebration BBQ will include a second-hand sale on Sunday 9th June to raise much needed funds for our parish. ITEMS WANTED! Must be in a re-sellable condition: Books, games, toys, toiletries, bags, DVDs, CDs, household items, accessories, unused gifts, stationery etc.

Please place your donated items in the boxes in the church porch by Saturday 8th June. If you want to help then please speak to Sonia or Richard Davis, or send an email into the parish office. 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)

MAY

- Sun 19th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)
Tue 21st 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
Thu 23rd 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
Sun 26th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)
Tue 28th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
Thu 30th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

JUNE

- Sun 2nd **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)
Tue 4th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
Thu 6th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
Sun 9th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)
Tea, Coffee, Cake after Holy Mass (SB Hall)

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** every Thursday from 10am-12pm

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.

Invitation to leave a legacy for CAFOD

Join CAFOD's Director Christine Allen to explore the power of leaving a gift in your Will to make a lasting impact in the world, at Our Lady of Sorrows & St. Philip Benizi in Fordingbridge SP6 1EG on Tuesday 18 June, 10.45am to 12:25pm.

To find out more and to book your place please go to [leave-a-gift-in-your-will](#)

Sudan Crisis Appeal 2024

Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis- extreme hunger. please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at <https://cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal>. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and help to get medicines, as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and 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 are especially in need of ministers who would be willing to visit parishioner at home or their place of care.

Father Elijah is talking to the deanery about Eucharistic minister training. The idea is that those who have previously done a course should carry out refresher training.

As yet no date has been set for training.

Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee

On Ascension Day the Holy Father presented and read the Bull of Indiction that announced and 'launched' the Jubilee Year 2025.



The Diocesan webpage for the Jubilee Year is: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/>.

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/

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.

Caritas Portsmouth

Caritas Portsmouth is hosting Sue Carter from the Alzheimer's Society, to run a Dementia Friends Information Session for anyone interested in hosting a Dementia Café, looking to make their parish more Dementia Friendly or just want to know more to support people in their family or community. The session will be held online on **Tuesday 21st May at 7pm**. Please register in advance [here](#).

For more information please contact us at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or visit <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

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.



DIOCESAN VACANCIES

View vacancies at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers>

Thank you from Stella Maris

Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is very grateful for this parish's prayer and financial support of its work on Sea Sunday last year.



To report back on the use of those funds, it invites parishioners to join an online update and thank you webinar on Tuesday 28th May from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. You will hear about the impact of your generosity on the lives of seafarers, fishers, and their families over the last year. Its CEO and chaplains will share inspiring stories of how they have helped seafarers and fishers through your support.

To register for this virtual event, please visit <http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/thankyou2024>

Stella Maris – Volunteers

Stella Maris Southampton is close to opening a Seafarers Club at the Stella Maris Pastoral Centre at St Joseph's Church in Bugle Street. We need volunteers to act as welcomers at the club.



The recruitment is key to the success of the project. As part of a team, you would provide a friendly welcome to visiting seafarers and offer practical advice on the city's attractions.

For more information, please pick up a leaflet at the back of the church or visit our webpage:



<http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/seafarerscentre/southampton>

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240519/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>