

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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12th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B, Cycle II

23rd June 2024

Christ in the Storms of our Lives

Job 38:1,8-11 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 Mark 4:35-41

Most often, we are caught in-between situations that seem to leave us with no other choices than to do what we have to do for the sake of a seemingly greater good such as defending ourselves, gaining a good name for ourselves, keeping our reputations, keeping our consciences free, proving that we are on the right, etc. These are the normal human tendencies that urge us on to retaliate or compensate for the lack or mishaps in our lives. Today's gospel narrates to us the miracle of the calming of the storm. Jesus was in the boat sleeping with his head on a cushion. The wind was right overhead, and the boat was almost sinking. The apostles, and those on board, battled out by themselves in vain until they remembered that Jesus was in the stern. So, they woke him up saying: "Master, do you not care? We are lost!"

In today's first reading, Job, a tormented man, demands justice from God amidst the multi-trials he is undergoing. Job has been infested with suffering although he was innocent and in his anguish he calls on God to justify this suffering.

In our second reading, St. Paul equates his entire life to a storm with these storms signifying the various difficulties he is undergoing in his life. In today's excerpt, St. Paul reminds everyone that through all the storms of life, it is the love of Christ that counts.

The storm in today's gospel foreshadows the future trials which the disciples and the Church were to experience. Jesus is there in the boat as in the Church and the disciples are also in the same boat [Church]. This boat [Church] is battled on all sides by wild winds of persecution and intimidation, and there is the fear of failure and death but Jesus does nothing to intervene. Rather, he is right there waiting to change situations if he is acknowledged as Lord and Master. In the midst

of their fright, they turned to Jesus and woke him up saying: "Do you not care? We are going down." This is prayer and what every disciple needs to do in the heart of difficulties. Prayer is the only means to wake Jesus, not crying and trying to stabilize things by our own might. Mark's description of a sleeping Jesus is not just a saying about someone who is resting. Jesus was not just resting but was waiting to be brought into action. This drama of today's happenings at sea has a symbolic sense. As God, Jesus knew the boat was being rocked and he wanted to see the degree of faith that will be exercised by his disciples before he intervenes. When he finally rebukes the storm, the people realize that he was truly God. For he himself has said that the gates of hell will never prevail. Jesus answers their prayer and tells them to improve on their faith: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" (Mk. 4:40).

Today's readings focus on the various trials we face daily and the assurance that God never abandons us to perdition even when we feel his seeming absence. Amongst all that which makes mankind dreadful, the readings look at the sea as the most terrifying creation of God whose bizarre and awesome nature signifies the various trials and tribulations we face daily. The action of the sailors to overcome their fears and sail through with the help of God signifies the endurance Christ expects of us in the course of all the trials we undergo. To end, the readings also want to point out to us that in the midst of our storms even if God is not acting immediately, he is always with us as is exemplified in Jesus' presence with his disciples in the boat in the posture of a sleeper.

Fr. Elijah

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time **23rd June**

9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)

11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)

Birthday thanksgiving and special intentions for Oscloka Nathan Igwe

5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)

6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)

Polish Mass

This Sunday Fr Elijah is away so we welcome Fr. Kevin Bidgood who will be saying Mass in all three churches.

Weekday Mass Times (25th June – 30th June)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 25th 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*

Wed 26th 10.00am **SB** *Mary Sponder RIP*

Thu 27th 9.45am **CKSC** *Alfred Charles Mills*

NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS WEEK ONLY

Fri 28th 10.00am **OLA**

Sat 29th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Sun 30th 9.15am **OLA**

11.00am **CKSC**

5.30pm **SB**

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 family and friends
(contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be at 3pm on 30th June in Portsmouth Cathedral.

Please pray for those going forward to receive the sacrament of confirmation.

Refreshments for Confirmation

10 of our young people will be confirmed on 30th June at 3pm in Portsmouth Cathedral. Our part in the celebration is to organise refreshments afterwards. So, we need some kind volunteers to support them by coming to serve in this way. Any offers of cakes and biscuits would also be well appreciated. Please let the office know if you are willing to help us. Please continue to pray for our youngsters. Thank you, Deirdre and Richard.

Golden Jubilee Portsmouth
Bamenda Twinning

The Archbishop of Bamenda, Andrew Nkea, together with 14 delegates, will be visiting our diocese of Portsmouth to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Portsmouth-Bamenda friendship (twinning) from Monday 1st July – Wednesday 10th July 2024. Key events to note are:

- a) Peak celebrations will be held in the Cathedral on **Saturday 6th July 2024** beginning with Holy Mass at 11am. Please, kindly note it will be wonderful to have us turn out in our numbers to mark this day. Note also that parking is restricted and payable.
- b) Next day on **Sunday 7th July 2024**, Mass will be in Christ the King and St. Colman Church, Bitterne, at 11am featuring all the delegates and an estimated 100 Cameroonians coming from the various ends of the UK. Considering that we will be dealing with a larger number on this day than usual, we appeal for great understanding and your generosity as we will be a bit tighter church.
- c) On this **Sunday 7th**, we appeal to all of us to “Bring and Share” in the car park. Lots of finger foods and soft drinks will greatly spark the day. This means that the car park will be closed for safety reasons and for space. Please, kindly use the parking opposite the Health Centre and or along the streets around [Not the Leisure Centre, unless you are a member].
- d) In view of **Sunday 7th July 2024** and considering that I [Fr. Elijah] will be hosting the Archbishop and some of the delegates throughout their stay here, I am personally appealing for your support in kind and cash to aid me with the hosting. Talk to me in person or the parish administration if you have a contribution to make. Thanks for your generosity.

Hedge End & West End Parish Donation Day

Our Parish Donation Day will be on Sunday 7th July 2024. This is our main fund-raising event of the year towards the maintenance and upkeep of our churches in Hedge End and West End.

Please be as generous as you possibly can, to support the present and future of our parish community and its continuing part in the work of the Lord. There will be an appeal in both churches on Sunday 9th June. Envelopes for donations will be given out from these dates to be returned on Parish Donation Day.

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.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

JUNE

Sun 23rd 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)

Tue 25th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 27th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

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

Fri 28th 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)

JULY

Tue 2nd 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 4th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

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

Sun 7th **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)

Tue 9th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)

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

Thu 11th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)

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

Fri 13th 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)

Sun 14th 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
- **Choir practice in hall** - 7:30pm on 2nd & 4th Friday each month. All welcome.

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.

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.

Life in the Spirit Course (Invitation)

Judith Aylmer (supported by Russ Fairman) invites you to sign up for the **Life in the Spirit** course. The course is run using Zoom and continues on Thursday evenings as follows:

- Thursday 27th June to Thursday 18th July
- 7.30pm until 9pm

The course got off to a flying start last week with Stella giving a testimony about her Gift of Hospitality and Sr Hyacinthe talking about God's love in relation to the story of Moses and the Burning Bush. The latter is now available to view at <https://youtu.be/GD4uXELXQzE>

Over 90 people enjoyed the talks and sharing in small groups afterwards. It is not too late to join the course. Please use this link to register – <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZiIf--trDwjGNAuzzyTiLVcwy7IzHwq87dG>

Next week we have Alastair Emblem, Leader of the Alton Day of Renewal, the longest continually running Day of Renewal in England and Wales, speaking to us about Salvation. The course is free to all, but we are crowdfunding to cover the costs of the course <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/CHARISPortsmouthLIFEINTHESPIRITcourse>.

Any surplus funds will be used to help support Charismatic Renewal in our diocese.

There is also an in-person **Holy Spirit Day** on **Saturday 29th June**. This powerful experience has been life changing for so many.

Hedge End West End Botley Churches Together Big Top Heroes Holiday BIBLE CLUB

Discover the heroes of the bible. Children aged 5-11 years from all three of our churches are welcome.

Following on from the Advent Activity Morning held at OLA hall in November, the venue for this summer's Holiday Bible Club is the Methodist church hall in Hedge End. OLA & St. Brigid's are both active members of HEWEB (Churches Together in Hedge End, West End & Botley).

Contact Veronica Hoskins on 07847 475806 with any queries.

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.

Safeguarding E-Learning

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) has developed the Learning Management System (LMS) as an online learning platform specifically for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Training is now aligned with the nature of the role the volunteer is undertaking and 3 modules are available:

Level 1 – Casual volunteers (roles with no DBS eligibility).

Level 2 – Volunteers who hold a role with DBS eligibility but do not require a check of the barred list.

Level 3 – Volunteers who hold a role with DBS eligibility, including a check of the barred list.

Level 3 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.



Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

@PortsmouthRC Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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

If you have news to share, contact:

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Our Lady of the Assumption 2025 - Our Big Year!

On Ascension Day, Pope Francis ‘launched’ the Jubilee Year 2025 with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”.

Also, in April 2025, Our Lady of the Assumption will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Church building (previously the church was in what is now our hall).

We need your ideas as to how, we can celebrate these 2 significant milestones. You are invited to please come along to an “Open Meeting” in the hall in the evening of Wednesday 10th July. Please come prepared to:

- share your memories of the past
- bring along photos, if you have some
- share ideas how we can celebrate our anniversary
- explore ways we can participate in the various diocesan jubilee events which you can find at <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/>

Please consider and pray on “What are our aspirations and hopes for the future of our church?”

We would like the meeting on **10th July** to start promptly at **7.30pm**. Please come along earlier if you can from 7.00pm for a "chat and a cuppa beforehand”.

Sunday’s Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240623/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