

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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11th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B, Cycle II

16th June 2024

“Small is beautiful”

Ezekiel 17:22-24

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Mark 4:26-34

E.F. Schumacher, an economist of German descent, wrote the well-known book *Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered*, which was released in 1973. The book criticized the prevalent mindset of conventional economic theory at the time, which held that "bigger is better," and it made the case for tiny, sustainable technologies that value people over profit and are considerate of the environment. The book became an immediate bestseller. In 1999, *The Times Literary Supplement* ranked it as one of the most influential books of the twentieth century. The scriptural readings for today serve as a reminder that God has chosen to reveal his strength and establish his rule on earth via the beauty of smallness. The God we worship is the God who makes large things happen out of little things; the God who makes his plans known by selecting small beginnings, inconsequential persons, and events; the God for whom weakness, vulnerability, and smallness are blessings rather than curses.

The prophet Ezekiel, who lived in the sixth century BC, when the people of Israel were driven from their country and sold into slavery in Babylon, is the source of our first reading. The prophet gives hope to his discouraged fellow Israelites by comparing it to the growth of a little branch into a powerful cedar tree. He assures them that God has not abandoned them, that he will bring them back to their own land and make them great again: 'I will plant it (the shoot) myself on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit' (Ezekiel 17:23). The shoot refers to God's faithful remnant, the 'Anawim' or 'little ones', those who remained steadfast in the midst of terrible adversity and became the nucleus of the restored Israel after the exile. It was from this faithful remnant that the Messiah came. By their fidelity to prayer and humble submission to God's will, this remnant, this small shoot, transformed the messianic hope of Israel from a political to a spiritual one. To the 'anawim' it was no scandal for the Messiah to come from a poor family and be born in a cattle-shelter.

In today's gospel passage from St Mark, Jesus employs the image of small seeds producing extraordinary results to explain the growth of God's reign on earth. Mark's gospel, like the book of Ezekiel, was written at

a time of persecution and crisis to strengthen the faith of the early Church. The two great apostles of Rome, Peter and Paul, were dead. The expected Parousia – Jesus' Second Coming – hadn't arrived. Many Christians were abandoning their faith, while self-appointed prophets and teachers were distorting the message of Jesus and creating confusion. The faithful few were wondering if God had abandoned them. It seemed as if the Church was doomed and the Kingdom of God a long way off. In this context Mark recounts five parables of Jesus about the Kingdom of God and how it grows. Two of these parables appear in today's gospel reading. The first uses the image of seed growing mysteriously by its own inner energies in the dark of the night as well as in the light of day. The second employs the image of a tiny mustard seed developing into a large shrub with wide spreading branches providing a home and shelter for the birds of the air. Both images, taken from nature, highlight the mysterious manner in which God works to achieve his purposes. God is at work even while we sleep or when we think he is asleep or has abandoned us. 'Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear' (Mark 4:28).

We live in a time, not unlike that of the Israelites in exile, or of the early Church at the time of Mark: a time of unforeseen decline for the English Church, both in the practice of the faith and its influence on society; a time of general mistrust of religious and civil institutions; a time of confusion and uncertainty. But if God's Kingdom is like a mustard seed, then the size of our institutional church is not important. What matters is the quality of our witnessing – remember our 10-year plan, *You will be my Witnesses*, is first and foremost about our individual commitment. This is the good seed which, in God's time and God's way, will yield miraculous results. So, let us not lose hope in the face of adversity and dwindling numbers and resources. Like the 'anawim' of old, let us learn the art of vitality in smallness and increase the quality of our faith and relationships in this seemingly fallow time. Let us work for the coming of the Kingdom even if the desired result is not yet in sight. And let us continue to nurture the seed we have received.

Fr Elijah

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time 16th June

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
In thanksgiving for 1st Holy Communion children and their families
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For Margaret Mary (Marie) Sadler RIP on the 5th anniversary of her death
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
For the people
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (18th June – 23rd June)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 18 th	10.00am	OLA	<i>For Elizabeth Phillips</i>
Wed 19 th	10.00am	SB	<i>In thanksgiving</i>
Thu 20 th	10.00am	CKSC	<i>For the people</i>
Fri 21 st	10.00am	OLA	<i>Elizabeth Smith RIP</i>
Sat 22 nd	10.00am	CKSC	<i>For the people</i>
	6.00pm	CKSC	<i>Requiem for Margaret Dunnings RIP</i>
Sun 23 rd	9.15am	OLA	
	11.00am	CKSC	
	5.30pm	SB	
	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)

Life in the Spirit Course (Invitation)

Judith Aylmer (supported by Russ Fairman) from the Portsmouth Diocese Life in the Spirit team invites you to sign up for the next online session on Thursday evenings

- Thursday 13th June to Thursday 18th July
- 7.30pm until 9pm

There is an excellent line-up of speakers including Fr Paul Leonard, Alastair Emblem (ADORE), Geoff Poulter (Called and Gifted), Gary Stephens (New Dawn), Allegra Mutanda (Director of Evangelisation at St. Peters and The Winchester Martyrs) and Charles Whitehead.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIIlf-trDwjGNAuzzyTiLVcwy7lzHwq87dG>

DIOCESAN VACANCIES View vacancies at:

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

Our Lady of the Assumption

Mass of Thanksgiving & Celebration for our First Holy Communion Children & Families

The 9.15am Holy Mass on Sunday 16th June at Our Lady of the Assumption will be a special Mass of Thanksgiving & Celebration led by our First Holy Communion Children.

Following Mass there will be a Celebration Breakfast in the hall of Bacon/Sausages in a roll, cake together with Tea/Coffee/Juice etc.

Please do come along and join the children and families in thanksgiving and celebration of this special time in their Faith journey. We look forward to welcoming you.

Second Collection for “Day for Life”

The second collection on 16th June is for ‘Day for Life’

Confirmation:

Our last Confirmation meeting will be 19th June.

The confirmation date is 30th June at 3pm at Portsmouth cathedral.

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

Hedge End & West End Fundraising

PARISH DONATION DAY - 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 help support the present and future of our parish community and its continuing part in the work of the Lord. If you haven't picked up an envelope yet, please ask the Minister of Welcome to give you one.

Please remember to hand in your envelope with your donation on the 7th of July or before if you wish.

Many thanks The Fundraising Committee

50 years – Golden Jubilee of Bamenda-Portsmouth partnership Sunday 7th July 2024

Following a celebration Mass at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth with Bishop Philip on Saturday 6th July, Archbishop Andrew Nkea will be visiting our parishes on Sunday 7th July. He is very keen to meet and hear from lots of parishioners, so we will be having a celebratory shared lunch after the 11am Mass.

Once again we are calling on your generosity to contribute food and drink for this celebration. Please consider savoury and sweet finger foods for ease of serving. 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)

Thu 13 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Fri 14 th	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 16 th	Children's Liturgy during Mass (OLA)
Tue 18 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Wed 19 th	7.00-8.30pm Carer's Group (OLA Hall)
Thu 20 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Sun 23 rd	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC)
Tue 25 th	9.30am-12pm Table Tennis (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm Growing in Faith (OLA)
Thu 27 th	10.30am-12pm Prayer Group (CKSC) 10am-12 noon Open Church (OLA)
Fri 28 th	7.30pm Choir Practise in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 30 th	12.30-2pm Youth Meeting (CKSC) Tea, Coffee, Cake after Holy Mass (SB Hall)
Tue 2 nd	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** 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.

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/>.

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 eg: if you have some, bring along photos: ideas how we can celebrate our anniversary together with ways we can participate in the various Jubilee events

<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" If you are interested and/or have ideas but know you can't make the meeting, please speak with Marion or Helen. We look forward to sharing with you.

SVP and CAFOD working together

St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information.

Caritas Portsmouth - Refugee Week

There are two online events for Refugee Week where we look to make our communities more welcoming to those arriving in our country. 13th June from 6-7pm with Caritas Plymouth and Tuesday 18th June from 12:30-1pm to hear from a parish project.

Registration links can be found on our website caritasportsmouth.org.uk

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.

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

THANK YOU!

With the support of so many we had an amazing St. Colman's celebration. A big thank you to everyone who donated to, cooked, served and ate the BBQ. It was delicious! For each person who provided, sorted, ticketed, carried or sold items for the fundraising sale – thank you for your generosity. We raised over £300! For those that helped move furniture, provided celebratory music, for the spontaneous singing and dancing – a big thank you to you all!

VACANCY: Parish Administrator, Immaculate

Conception Church, Southampton, 20-25 hrs/week,

This is a pivotal role in supporting the parish priest, providing a sympathetic and efficient focal point for enquiries, liaising with parishioners and managing all aspects of administration to ensure the smooth day to day running of the parish. Full details can be found on the diocesan website at

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

Stella Maris Southampton Volunteers

Stella Maris Southampton are looking for volunteers to staff their new Seafarers Club in the Stella Maris Pastoral Centre At St Joseph's Church in Bugle Street, Southampton. 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:

www.stellamaris.org.uk/seafarerscentre/southampton



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.

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.England/20240616/mass.html>

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/