

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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14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7th July 2024

'They would not accept him' (Mk. 6:3)

The theme of rejection looms large in today's scripture readings. Ezekiel, the prophet of today's first reading suffered rejection because he predicted the destruction of Jerusalem. He was among the Israelites driven into exile by the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, and is the only prophet called by God to prophesy outside Israel. The exile was a traumatic experience for a people who saw themselves as specially chosen by God. Captured and enslaved in Babylon, they had lost everything they held precious: their freedom and the things which gave them a sense of identity as a people – their land and the Temple. Their most cherished hopes have been dashed. Many of them were so disheartened that they lost faith in the Lord and in his promises, and turned to the gods of their oppressors. No wonder they refused to listen to Ezekiel. Nevertheless, Ezekiel is empowered by the Spirit and mandated by the Lord to continue proclaiming his word to the people, 'whether they listen or not' (Ezek. 2:5). We might ask ourselves who are today prophets, whose preaching is falling on deaf ears.

Our second reading reminds us that St. Paul's mission, while remarkably successful, was not all plain sailing and that he experienced what he calls 'a thorn in the flesh' to stop him 'from getting too proud' (2 Cor. 12:8). While Paul never states clearly what precisely this thorn in the flesh was, many Scripture Scholars suggest that it may refer to one or other of the practical difficulties he mentions in verse 10: 'weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints. All of these Paul is prepared to accept for the sake of Christ. 'For', he adds, 'it is when I am weak, that I am strong.' (2 Cor. 12:10).

In today's gospel from Mark, Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth not to a hero's welcome, as one might expect following his raising of the daughter of Jairus to life. Instead, he faces jealousy, ridicule, and rejection. Clearly taken aback by the people's 'lack of faith', Jesus responds with words tinged with bitter disappointment: 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house' (Mk. 6:4). Following this incident, Jesus would not return to his hometown or set foot in another synagogue in Galilee again.

Why did Jesus' own townspeople reject him? Perhaps because they knew him too well or thought they did. He had lived among them for thirty years as the son of a humble tradesman, and they never saw any signs of extraordinary power or wisdom in him. So, when he started to speak in their synagogue, they were 'astonished by his wisdom', but not disposed to accept him. Instead, they raised questions about the source of his wisdom and his identity. These remarks clearly show the prejudices that acted as a stumbling block to their acceptance of Jesus and his message. There is also here an echo of an earlier scene in Mark's gospel, where Jesus' relations 'set out to take charge of him', convinced he was 'out of his mind' (Mk. 3:21).

Today's readings call on us to open our hearts, our minds and our whole being to the challenging and often surprising presence of God among us: in others, in the events of our lives, in the Church, in our world. God is always speaking to us, but we must listen.

Fr. Elijah

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time **7th July 2024**

9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
6.00pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (9th – 14th July)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 9 th	10.00am	OLA	For the Holy Souls and Deceased members of the Ingram and Bannister families
Wed 10 th	10.00am	SB	For the people
Thu 11 th	NO MASS		
Fri 12 th	3.30pm	OLA	For the Holy Souls and Deceased members of the Ingram and Bannister families
Sat 13 th	10.00am	CKSC	For Agatha St Omer RIP on her 60th anniversary
	12.00pm	CKSC	Baptism of Dawid Tomczak
Sun 14 th	9.15am	OLA	For the intentions of Chris and Pauline Walford on their 55 th Wedding anniversary
	11.00am	CKSC	For Angela Lacey RIP
	5.30pm	SB	For the people
	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)

Second Collection 14th July (Sea Sunday)

Next Sunday (14th July) there will be a collection for Stella Maris as it is Sea Sunday.

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 4th June to Thursday 18th July
- 7.30pm until 9pm

It is not too late to join the course. Please use this link to register –

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIf--trDwjGNAuzzyTiLVcwy7lzHwg87dG>

Note: Faith on Fire group will resume after Confirmation on 30th June.

**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 was an appeal in both churches on Sunday 9th June. Envelopes for donations were given out and should please be returned on Parish Donation Day.

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)

- 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)
- Tue 16th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 17th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 18th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 21st **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (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.

Public Speaking in Church. Join our online training, learn tips and build your confidence

CAFOD are offering 1-hour training sessions on Zoom for anyone interested in building their confidence for public speaking. Designed for beginners and anyone who needs to make announcements, ask for volunteers or speak on behalf of a charity or a parish appeal at Mass. Come along to learn new skills, practise, and discover how you can inspire our congregation.

[Register here](#) to receive the link or use the QR code to the right with your mobile phone camera.

Date and time:

Saturday 13 July, 11am-12pm
& Tuesday 16 July, 7pm-8pm.



Praise and Worship Evening Theme - "The greatness of God"

Come and join us for an evening of scripture, a reflection, adoration, silence, prayer and worship. Sit, stand, kneel, sing or don't sing ... just come and be.

- **Date:** Friday 12th July - 7.30pm.
- **Location:** St Philip Howard Church, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1ND

Followed by fellowship and seasonal light refreshments in the Hall. Bring your friends!

For more details, please call 01329 318 869 or email:

farehamportchester@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Our Lady of the Assumption BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST ! QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 26th July 2024

Please do come along and join in with our **Summer Fun Quiz Night** at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall on **Friday 26th July** from **7.00pm** (to form teams) ready for a 7.30pm start.

Once again, there is no increase in the price of tickets. **£5.00 per adult - children free.**

Ticket price includes tea/coffee/squash and a **Ham/Cheese Ploughman's Supper**

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks and also bring some cash for a fun raffle!

Tickets will be on sale in our three churches from **SUNDAY 7th July**. Please put your name and ticket number on the sign-up sheet so we know numbers attending. **Why** not put the date in your diary then come along and start the Summer Holidays off with this fun evening.

We look forward to welcoming you.

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". If you are interested and/or have ideas but can't make the meeting, please speak with Marion or Helen.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation for 2024/25

If you have a child who will be in YEAR 4 OR ABOVE IN SEPTEMBER 2024, who would like to attend preparation sessions to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the First Time in 2025, registration is taking place over the summer.

Please complete a registration form (available at the back of our three churches) and send it in to the Parish Office.

The Closing Date for acceptance of Registration Forms is SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024. There will be a Parents Introductory Meeting during the early part of October (exact date to be confirmed later)

Sessions will begin in October 2024, leading to 1st Holy Communion being celebrated on the Sunday of the Feast of Corpus Christi which will be Sunday 22nd June 2025.

We look forward to welcoming you. In the meantime, we wish all our children and families a safe and happy summer break. God Bless you all.

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/>

Attendees will receive certificates on completion of their training to support continuing ministry.

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.

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.England/20240630/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>