

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Elijah Fru Nde (emergency use phone number 0777 466 7010)

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

21st July 2024

The Lord will Redeem, Reunify and Restore Us

Jer 23:1-6

Eph 2:13-18

Mk 6:30-34

Today's readings are centred on the theme of redemption, reunification, and restoration of God's people. Hence, the church invites us to celebrate Christ, the true king and compassionate shepherd who redeems and restores his people to the Father.

The first reading is a prophecy concerning the arrival of Christ, the Messiah. A dispersed population is an indication that something is wrong. It is an indication of weak leadership and a broken system. Thus, like sheep in the absence of a shepherd, the impoverished masses must disperse in order to survive. This is the picture that permeates modern society worldwide. Therefore, this first reading is extremely critical of all leaders—priests, pastors, parents, directors, governors, presidents, and anyone else in a position of authority—who, through carelessness or apathy, have permitted their people to suffer or go wrong. "I will take care of you for your deeds," declares the Lord. All this implies is that judgement day is near.

Christ is the fulfilment of this prophesy. His self-immolation has already marked the start of this redemptive mission. Until the end of time, when Jesus ultimately returns all to His Father, Jesus will carry on with it. Then, once he has destroyed every dominion, authority, and power, the end will arrive when he gives the kingdom to God the Father (1 Cor 15: 24).

In the second reading, Paul reminds us that: "...You that used to be so far apart have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ." This simply means that Christ is the fulfilment of the messianic prophecy. He is our peace and has broken down the barrier, which is used to keep us apart. Through his sacrifice, he has reunified us with God.

In the gospel, Christ also demonstrated that he is that promised Davidic king and good shepherd. He will not rest until our souls, and our land is completely healed and restored to his Father. As a compassionate and wise king, Jesus knows our situation. He is doing something about it and will not rest until we are redeemed and restored to God. Christ does not keep quiet over our conditions. He sees and knows that negligent shepherds have abandoned us.

Thousands of lives have been lost through dangerous land and sea border crossings. Today's global immigration problem is a sign of leadership and system failure. The human shepherds of our nations have all failed God and all of us. However, the good news is that God will restore us. He will repair the broken elements of our land.

This is a message of hope for all passing through all forms of political, social, and economic crisis. We simply need to obey Christ's teachings and instructions to be redeemed and restored to his Father. Trusting Christ, our king and shepherd, let us always proclaim without ceasing: "The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want!".

Fr. Elijah

QUIZ NIGHT

Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall

THIS FRIDAY 26th July at 7pm

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY

or

at the door ON THE NIGHT

16th Sunday of the Year – 21st July 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
In Thanksgiving
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
For Angela Lecey RIP
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
For Archie Gibson and for his family on the 12th death anniversary
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (23rd – 28th July)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 23 rd	10.00am	OLA	<i>For the people</i>
Wed 24 th	10.00am	SB	
Thu 25 th	10.00am	CKSC	<i>For the people</i>
Fri 26 th	10.00am	OLA	
Sat 27 th	10.00am	CKSC	<i>For the people</i>
Sun 28 th	9.15am	OLA	<i>Sandra Webb RIP</i>
	11.00am	CKSC	<i>Bernard Redding RIP - 13th anniversary & Hanora Redding RIP - 100th birthday</i>
	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)

Our Lady of the Assumption

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday 15th August 2024

Holy Mass will be celebrated on the Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and Patron at The Church of the Assumption, Hedge End at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th August 2024.

After Mass we will continue the celebration in the hall with a ‘Finger-Food American Supper’ together with a glass of celebration fizz together, of course, with tea, coffee or soft drink.

Please bring along a plate of ‘finger food or nibbles’ to share and come along to celebrate with us, this very special Feast Day of our Patron at The Church of the Assumption.

We look forward to welcoming you. God Bless

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.

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.

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)

JULY

Sun 21st **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)

Tue 23rd 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Thu 25th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Fri 26th 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)

Sun 28th **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits** after Holy Mass (CKSC)
12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)

Tue 30th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)

Wed 31st 8.00-9.00pm **Faith on Fire** (CKSC)

AUG

Thu 1st 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Sun 4th **Tea, Coffee, Cake** after Holy Mass (SB Hall)

Tue 6th 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.

Collection figures for Hedge End & West End

The collection figures for Hedge End and West End Parish for June 2024:

Standing orders and other direct payments	1,612.50
Looseplate	798.89
Candles	59.23
Table tennis	80.50
Car parking	670.00
Donation Day	110.00
Hall income	346.50
CAFOD	153.00
Catholic Communications network	131.77
Day for Life	33.60

Hedge End & West End Fundraising Parish Donation Day

Thank you to everyone who handed in their envelope and donated money to our much-needed funds on Parish Donation Day. If you have not returned your envelope, could you please do so as soon as possible.

As at 14 July 2024 £1,944 has been collected for Parish Donation Day in Hedge End and West End

Thank you very much for your help.

The Fund-Raising Committee

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.english/20240721/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>

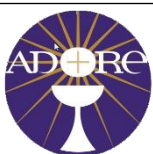
Our Lady of the Assumption 2025 - Our Big Year!

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

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



Alton Day of Renewal Growing in Holiness Through Praise, Worship and Prayer

On July 27th 10.00-1.00 there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: going deeper in Praise, Worship and Prayer" that will explore this in more depth. This meeting on Zoom is hosted by "ADoRE" one of the longest-running charismatic days of renewal in the country.

The session includes Mass, Adoration, Praise and Worship, inspired Teaching and Prayer for all participants to foster the presence of the Holy Spirit in them. It is part of the 2024 ADore programme developing our understanding and appreciation of how we are to respond to God's call to holiness; co-operating with the Holy Spirit as He helps us to love and obey God's will to love Him and to love our neighbour.

The dynamic Catholic evangelist Ros Powell will give the main talk and pray for everyone to be more open to the grace and presence of the Lord in our lives; being transformed into Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Register to connect by Zoom at <http://bit.ly/ADOREJUL2024>.

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/>

Hedge End West End Botley Churches Together Big Top Heroes Holiday BIBLE CLUB 5th-9th August.

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.

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

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

If you have news to share, contact:

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