

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)

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Michael Ingram (safeguarding.soukc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Office: 2 Dean Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO18 6AP – Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am–1pm

Phone **023 8044 9088**, Email ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

28th July 2024

Christ, the Bread broken for the life of the world

We honour Christ who feeds and unites us in him today, the seventeenth Sunday of ordinary time. Inspired by kindness and charity, the gospel and our first reading both describe the miraculous multiplication of bread.

In our first reading, Elisha got a gift of food. However, noticing that the people were hungry and moved by compassion, he generously offered it. Through him, God miraculously multiplied the food. Thus, fulfilling his prophecy: “They will eat and have leftover.”

In the second reading, Paul reminds us of the virtues that we need to live and survive together as a body of Christ. That is a community and family united by one faith, one baptism, and one spirit. These virtues include: “Charity, generosity, gentility, complete selflessness and patience towards one another.”

In the gospel, moved by compassion for his flock, Christ, “the new Elisha,” replicated Elisha’s miracle. He fed more than five thousand people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. Christ cares both for our physical and spiritual needs. He feeds us with both His Word and the Holy Eucharist.

There are many important lessons we can learn from today’s readings and especially from these miracles. The first is from the compassion and generosity of both Elisha and Jesus for their flocks. Compassion moved them to feed their people generously. Compassion is the basis of empathy and sympathy. We need it to understand what it means for others to be hungry, thirsty, sick, homeless, jobless, and lonely. We need them to be human.

The Second lesson is that God can transform something little into something extraordinary. So, we must not doubt God as the disciples did. This is because our God is a God of impossibilities. As Christ tells us: “With God all things are possible” (Mt. 19: 26), and Paul affirms: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4: 13).

The third lesson is the generosity of the little boy. He is a hero in Jesus’ miracle. He generously offered what he had, and his generosity became the motivation of a great miracle for his community. From two fish and five loaves, the community was blessed with more than twelve baskets of food leftover. This shows that, at times, God works with what we have.

How do we respond to the needs of our community in times of need? The goods we bear, our talents, time, knowledge, experience, including our faith, are values that we must place at the service of others. A generous and compassionate attitude towards others can enrich the lives of many and our own lives too. When compassion and generosity embrace, great miracles happen for a community united by one faith, one spirit, and one baptism.

Finally, through his generosity and compassion, Christ continues to work miracles in our midst. He continues to feed and nourish us physically and spiritually at every Eucharistic celebration. So, with the psalmist, let us praise Christ: “You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.”

Fr. Elijah

17th Sunday of the Year – 28th July 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
Sandra Webb RIP
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Bernard Redding RIP - 13th anniversary & Hanora Redding RIP - 100th birthday
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Blessing for 53rd Wedding Anniversary of Maureen & Peter Klapprott
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (30th July - 4th August)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 30th 10.00am **OLA** *Maureen Hawkes RIP - 1st anniversary*
- Wed 31st 10.00am **SB** *For the people*
- Thu 1st 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 2nd 10.00am **OLA**
- Sat 3rd 10.00am **CKSC**
- Sun 4th 9.15am **OLA** *Kevin James Peacock RIP*
11.00am **CKSC** *Cummings family, Inthanksgiving to God for their stay in the UK and for grace as they begin a new chapter of their lives in Cyprus*
- 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 families and friends (contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

Baptism of Xavier Tjijombo

We welcome Xavier Tjijombo who will be baptised at Christ the King & St Colman, Bitterne on Sunday 28th July during the 11.00am Mass.

Please keep Xavier and his family in your prayers.

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.

Faith on Fire will start again on 18th September in Christ the King and St Colman church 7.30pm to 9pm. All Young people from secondary age upwards are welcome. For more information contact Deirdre 07828810009

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

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.

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)

JULY

- 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) Sun
- Thu 8th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Fri 9th 7.30pm **Choir Practise** in church hall (CKSC)

Recurring Events Sun

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.english/20240728/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>



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>.

CKSC Figures for June 2024

Loose Offertory - £575.79
Contactless Giving - Parish - £247.82
Standing Orders & Direct Debits - £1852.50
Gift Aid reclaimed (for Jan - Mar 2024) - £932.50
Donation from Polish Community - £400
Hall Rent - £588
Day for Life (cash & contactless giving) - £64.60
World Communications (cash & contactless giving) - £2.81
Parish Fundraising (Tabletop sale) - £309.70

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/>

Update on the Porch Repairs at Hedge End

A surveyors report has recommended further work to the church porch.

Quotes for this work have been submitted to the finance committee and the selected supplier is to commence work shortly. This work is expected to cost £1,950.