

# 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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23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## *Our God Does All Things Well*

On this twenty-third Sunday of regular time, we commemorate Christ, our Saviour, who does not judge anyone based on their social status. He uplifts us and increases our faith in him. We praise the Lord, who heals and restores the afflicted.

The first reading offers hope to God's downtrodden people and to all of us who need His saving assistance. It is a message of reconciliation from the Lord, who detests injustice and is not partial. It is, above all, a message of optimism from a father who loves and looks out for all his children. He says to us today: "Courage, do not be afraid! Look, your God is coming."

In our second reading today, James frowns at the sin of despising the poor in favor of the rich. His words equally apply to all types of prejudices and discriminations in our families, churches, and society. So, to favor some people and disregard others based on their race, economic, social, or religious background is a terrible evil against God and man.

This evil afflicted the early church. This was why seven deacons were elected to avoid favoritism in the distribution of resources in Acts 6. The message of James is still very relevant to all of us today. This is because today, in our families, communities, churches, states, and indeed worldwide, people still suffer terrible injustice because of who they are. They still suffer because of where they come from, the color of their skin, and so on.

Many innocent, poor, and good people are not valued because of their economic, social, political, religious, and cultural status. It is sad to know that favoritism, discrimination, and

racism still plagues our society in this century. This should not be so for us as Christians. Wherever they exist, they are signs that we do not yet know or understand God and his ways. Their roots are in these twin vices called: pride and selfishness. Pride makes one think he/she is better than the other or superior, while others are inferior. So, they must be treated differently. Selfishness makes one think solely about one's wellbeing, ignoring others.

In today's gospel, "Jesus went from one town to the other doing good." However, the gospel did not tell us that he healed only the poor or the rich. Rather, His blessings touched and transformed the poor, rich, sinner, righteous, etc. He did not discriminate or show favoritism. Instead, he identified with all classes of people. Christ visited and ate with Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Lk. 19 1-10). He called Levi the tax collector and transformed him into saint Matthew, the great evangelist (Mt. 9: 9-13). He also healed the daughter of a gentile, Jairus, the wealthy Roman centurion (Mk. 5: 21-43). Against Jewish tradition, He spoke with a Samaritan woman and transformed her life by bringing her to faith (Lk. 4:1 42). Also, He healed the poor, blind, lame, deaf, and dumb. Indeed, "He did all things well" without favoritism.

Finally, let us emulate Jesus by aiming at being good to all without discrimination or favoritism. We must make ourselves an instrument to help others rise without minding their status. We should be motivated by the fact that "God created all of us in his image and likeness" (Gen 2: 27). Only through this can we truly sing with the psalmist: "My soul gives praise to the Lord."

*Fr. Elijah*

## 23rd Sunday of the Year – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*For Janet & Jim on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary*  
11.00am. **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*For the people*  
5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*For the people*  
6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

## Weekday Mass Times (10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September)

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *For the people*  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB**  
Thu 12<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC**  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA** *Jonathan Doughty RIP*  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *Special intention*  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA** *Special intention*  
11.00am **CKSC** *For the people*  
5.30pm **SB** *For the people*  
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)*

## 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.

## SECOND COLLECTION 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

The second collection today is for the **Catholic Education Service**

**Advance Notice:** The church porch at Hedge End is being repaired on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September this will mean that access into the church will be restricted on those days.

**OPEN CHURCH:** 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.

## OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION FRIDAY SOUP 13TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Following the Summer Break, First Friday Soup will return on the SECOND FRIDAY OF SEPTEMBER! Please do come along and join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup with crusty bread being served from 12.00 noon on FRIDAY 13th SEPTEMBER in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.

There is no charge however, donations will be gratefully received will go to CAFOD.

We look forward to welcoming all 'our regulars' again and, hopefully, some new faces on Friday 13th September.

With thanks and God Bless

## 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.

## Appeal from Fr. Elijah

Last September, I made an appeal for anyone of goodwill to help sponsor a child's Tuition in Bamenda (£150 for Primary Schools; £250 for secondary schools).

As schools resume this September, I come again to make this appeal. If you wish to offer some help, please kindly let me or the Parish Administrators know. Donations of children's shoes suitable for casual and school use. Also text books from 'A' levels and GCSE's that are no longer needed.

Thank you so much.

*Fr. Elijah*

## Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.England/20240908/ma-ss.htm>

## Reflections

<http://www.mycatholic.com/>

## Diocesan eNews

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

## UK Catholic Newspapers

<https://www.churchpaper.co.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)

Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tea, Coffee, Biscuits</b> after Holy Mass (SB)
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm <b>Choir Practise</b> in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> during Mass (OLA)
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-8.30pm <b>Carer's Group</b> (OLA Hall) 8pm-9pm <b>Faith on Fire</b> (CKSC)

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 to August, December**
- **Youth Meetings** 12:30 -14:00 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month
- **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & friendly chat** in the hall every 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 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](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.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.

## Hedge End/West End Monthly Income

### August 2024

Looseplate	£633.79
Table Tennis	£207.50
Standing orders and other direct payments	£1,657.50
Car parking	£1,110.00
Hedge End Repairs Fund	£1,950.00
Repository	£8.00

## 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.