

**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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27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## *The Sanctity of Marriage and the Family of God*

On this 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of ordinary time, we are invited to reflect on the significance and importance of marriage and family as essential institutions founded by God the creator. In today's context, where unfortunately, these essential institutions are under serious threat, we are nevertheless challenge as Christ's disciples, to stay focused on the teachings of our Lord. So, it is important to note that whatever threatens marriage and family life threatens love, unity, and the entire human existence. Marriage plays a dual role. First, it serves the affection between couples and secondly, the sustenance of humanity through procreation.

Today, both our first reading and the gospel strongly call us to uphold the sanctity of marriage and family life. They both remind us that marriage is instituted by God. So, it must be cherished and protected. However, it is important to note that its challenges are overcomeable through God's grace and good Christian virtues. Marriage has its own joys, trials, and tribulations. Sadly, today's common experience is that divorce is the best way to resolve marital crisis. This might seem a right and fast solution. However, it is not always the case.

Today's readings remind us that it is not the will of God for any sacramental marriage to be broken: "This is why a man must leave his father and mother, and join himself to his wife, and they become one body. So, what God had united, man must not divide." Jesus tells us quite clearly that divorce is not part of God's plan. God's dream is that a man and woman who married are called to mirror the fidelity of God towards us. A married couple is asked to reflect the covenant love of God for his people, a God who never fails in this promise of fidelity to us. He will never abandon us. But Jesus knew that we do not live in an ideal world. We are not angelic people. It is very important to have ideals before us and to live by

them. But being human we often, despite our most noble intentions, make mistakes and fail. Any couple married for a long time will say that it takes a lot of 'I do's' for a man and woman to become husband and wife, it takes a lot of dying to self. We all know from experience that there will be a lot of mistakes and compromises called for. But God's grace, his Spirit is always there to empower us. Who doesn't make mistakes from time to time? This is equally true of priesthood and religious life. It is our daily reality.

Today and always, the Church must proclaim the ideal of fidelity in marriage. This is God's design for us. But the Church also recognizes that it can happen, and does, that the two partners in marriage may be unable to sustain their relationship so that their marriage no longer functions. It has become impossible to live in peace with each other without destroying each other. Here again the Church must echo the gospel. And THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS OF TODAY'S GOSPEL. It must proclaim the message of God's mercy, of his liberating forgiveness. The gospel gives every person a future. There is no human failure so great that it is completely hopeless and no longer open to God's mercy. God is the God of the second chance and the third and so on.

Let us sympathize and pray for all those going through difficult times in their marriages. We pray that God will give them the grace, strength, and wisdom to find peace in their homes. We also pray that those intending to be united in this Holy Sacrament, through the grace of God, that they may not be discouraged but may find fulfillment in love.

*Fr. Elijah*

## 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)  
*For the Saxby Family*
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*For Henry Diagboya and Frederick Okonkwo  
RIP*
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)  
*For the people*
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)  
*Polish Mass*

## Weekday Mass Times (8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October)

**OLA** – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

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

**SB** – St Brigid (West End)

Tue 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **SB**

Thur 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **OLA**

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 10.00am **CKSC**

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 9.15am **OLA** *Sylvia Daphne Langlois(RIP)*

11.00am **CKSC** *For the people*

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)**

## 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*

**OPEN CHURCH:** Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Hedge End is open for private prayer on Thursdays from 10am until midday. To join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

## Our Lady of the Assumption 1st Friday Soup - Friday 4th October 2024

Please join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup with crusty bread at about 12.00noon on "Friday 4th October in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.

There is no actual charge and all donations go to CAFOD.... Please join us and make a special effort for CAFOD on this Harvest Festival Weekend.

We look forward to welcoming you

## 1st Reconciliation & 1st Holy Communion Preparation

The date for registration of children to prepare to celebrate the Sacraments in 2025 has now closed. There will be an Introductory Meeting for parents/carers of children, who have been registered to prepare to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the 1st time in 2025;

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Monday, 14th October 2024

Venue: Christ the King & St Colman Church

If a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate has not been handed in with the Registration Form, please bring along a copy, or the original for copying, to the meeting on 14th October.

Preparation Sessions will take place, starting on Monday 21st October, during School Term Time, on Monday evenings from 6.15pm to 7.30pm. The venue will alternate each week between Christ the King & St Colman, Bitterne and Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End.

We very much look forward to meeting and getting know you all. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to speak with one of us: Sonia/CKSC-Helen/OLA/SB.

Thank you and God Bless

## Our Lady of the Assumption Harvest Festival

### Sunday 6th October 2024

At our 9.15am Mass on 6th October, we will celebrate Harvest Festival. This year our gifts will again support The Food Bank.

So many families continue to face the impact of higher food costs. Many give to the Food Bank collection at the back of the church on a regular basis; it would be fantastic if, at this time Harvest Festival Time, we all make an extra effort to boost the Food Bank Stock Levels.

In particular they need: Tinned Meat, Tinned vegetables, UHT Milk, Size 5 & 6 Nappies.... Or any tinned, or packet foods with a good 'sell by' date.

Perhaps we could buy an 'extra item' or 2 when shopping over the coming weeks to help those less fortunate than us? Thank you.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ....." Matthew 25: 35-40*

## CAFOD Family Fast Day (4<sup>th</sup> October)

The second collection on 6<sup>th</sup> October will be for CAFOD following family fast day on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October.

## 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 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tea, Coffee, Biscuits</b> after Holy Mass (CKSC)
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-8.30pm <b>Carer's Group</b> (OLA Hall)
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm <b>Choir Practise</b> in church hall (CKSC)
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tea, Coffee, Biscuits</b> after Holy Mass (SB)
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (OLA)
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-8.30pm <b>Carer's Group</b> (OLA Hall)
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am-12pm <b>Prayer Group</b> (CKSC) 10am-12 noon <b>Open Church</b> (OLA)
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> during Mass (OLA)
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am-12pm <b>Table Tennis</b> (OLA Hall) 7.30-9pm <b>Growing in Faith</b> (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 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
- **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.

## Fr Kevin Delaney RIP

The funeral for Fr Kevin will take place on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in Sacred Heart Church, London Road, Hook, RG27 9LA.

There will be a live stream of his funeral which can be accessed by going to Sacred Heart Hooks website and following the links for 'live mass'.

## Faith on Fire

Following our session on Wednesday, we will meet again on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November in Christ the King and St Colman Church at 7.30pm until 8.30pm.

All young people over secondary school age are welcome. We will be looking at poverty and our response to it as Catholic Christians.

## 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.

## 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.

## Safeguarding Training Session

Diocesan Safeguarding training will take place at Immaculate Conception Church in Portswood on 26<sup>th</sup> October between 11am and 4pm.

If you are a volunteer and have not received training in the last 3 years, please contact our Parish Office and they will send you an invite to the training.

They are keen to know numbers by the 18<sup>th</sup>, so please respond as soon as possible if you need training.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE

The national highways agency have asked that we advertise that the M27 Junction 7 eastbound exit slip road will be **closed** from 9pm 15 October to 6am 19 October 2024

## CAFOD's Family Fast Day Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October

We hope that you will be able to support a collection for CAFOD in your parish to support our sisters and brothers around the world.



CAFOD's helps build a better future by teaching skills in CAFOD-funded training centres. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so people can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential.

Use the envelope in church or give online at <http://cafod.org.uk/envelope>.

## ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 26th October 10.00-1.00

"Heal the sick – ministering in the charisms of the Holy Spirit," Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Joe Livingston.

Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREOCT2024](http://bit.ly/ADOREOCT2024)

More information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

## 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.

## 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)

## Prayers for life - stop assisted suicide

The Prime Minister is paving the way for a parliamentary vote before Christmas to legalise assisted suicide. The Government and assisted suicide lobbyists are putting intense pressure on MPs to support a Private Members' Bill to rush legislation into law. A Private Members' Bill was the same mechanism used to legalise abortion in 1967. This is contrary to Catholic teaching and, as we have seen in other countries like the Netherlands and Canada, it particularly puts vulnerable people at risk.

**Please pray this bill will not succeed. You can also contact you MP at**

<https://righttolife.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2b57a06f3f56132a570ea2282&id=645828112e&e=2e3726ec9f>



## Ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law

**It only takes 30 seconds to contact your MP using this easy-to-use tool. Ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law.**

[righttolife.us12.list-manage.com](http://righttolife.us12.list-manage.com)

## HEDGE END AND WEST END MONTHLY INCOME

MONTH	Sep-24
Looseplate	885.36
Standing orders and other direct payments	1662.50
Car parking	915
Church rent	130.00
Repository	2.15
Second collections	
Catholic Education Service	75.48
Home Missions	78.68

## Sunday's Readings:

### Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.england/20241006/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>