

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)

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

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1st Sunday of Advent (Year A, Cycle 2)

30th November 2025

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Longing for Peace

The First Sunday of Advent in Year A marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and introduces a season of preparation, expectation, and hope. The word "Advent," drawn from the Latin *ad-ventus* ("to arrive") or *ad-venire* ("to come"), signifies the anticipated coming of the Lord. For Christians, particularly Catholics, Advent is a four-week period inviting the faithful to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, to remain mindful of his presence in daily life, and to look ahead to his promised second coming. Symbols such as the Advent wreath and its four candles, alongside the season's Scripture readings, serve as reminders to reflect deeply on Christ's arrival and its transformative meaning.

The readings of this Sunday highlight the deep longing for peace that characterized ancient Israel. Positioned between powerful and often hostile empires, Israel experienced recurring cycles of war, oppression, and internal strife. Yet the nation trusted in a God who had delivered their ancestors from slavery in Egypt and continued to hear the cries of the oppressed. This trust inspired hope for a future in which God would establish lasting peace and restore creation to harmony. The prophet Isaiah expresses this longing in the first reading, envisioning a world where nations turn away from violence and reshape their weapons into instruments that sustain life.

Although Christ has already inaugurated God's reign of peace, justice, and love, humanity continues to fall short of this vision. Modern conflicts – in Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, Gaza, and many other regions – demonstrate that Isaiah's dream remains incomplete. Jesus' lament over Jerusalem's inability to recognize the path of peace continues to resonate today.

In response, the Gospel calls believers to "stay awake," urging constant spiritual vigilance and fidelity to God's light. St. Paul reinforces this message, encouraging Christians to reject darkness, embrace righteousness, and prepare wholeheartedly for the dawning of true and lasting peace.

Mass Times and Intentions

1st Week of Advent

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tue-Fri). Sacrament of Confession is available on request.

Mass Intentions can be requested through Fr Elijah or the Parish Office.

Date	Times & Location			Mass Intentions & Feasts
Sun 30 th November <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the people For Anne & Edward Fagan RIP For the repose of the souls of Guido Camilleri, Francis, Antonia, Doris, and Elsie
Tue 2 nd December	10am	OLA	Mass	
Wed 3 rd December	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 4 th December	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 5 th December	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 6 th December	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 7 th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the people For the people For vulnerable young people

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20251130/mass.htm>

Christmas Mass Times

24th Dec CKSC 6pm Carols, 6:30pm Family Mass

25th Dec St Brigids 9am Carols, 9:30am Morning Mass

24th Dec OLA 10pm Carols, 10:30pm Midnight Mass

25th Dec CKSC 11am Mass

Within our Parish

CKSC Giving Tree - Stella Maris Christmas Chocolate Appeal: Can you help us give chocolates to Seafarers arriving in our ports this Christmas? Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world. We want to show them that they are not forgotten this Christmas. Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts? If so, please put your gifts under our Advent giving tree at Christ the King & St Colman's church by Sunday 14th December. THANK YOU!

OLA Giving tree: The Christmas Giving Tree gifts this year will again be going to POITIERS CARE A Catholic Organisation supporting people in need in and around the Southampton area. We are gifting Christmas Treats: biscuits, chocolates, tins of fruit, sweets, ready-made custard, tinned cream, tinned ham, snacks, 'long-life' jellies/trifles, mince pies, crackers ... any Christmas themed treats and foods you can think of. Please place your gifts under the tree, by Sunday 14th December. Stuck for ideas? Take a tag or two from the tree, bring your gift(s) along and help bring some "Christmas Cheer" to so many families who are less fortunate than us.

SB Giving tree: Our Giving Tree charity this year is the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project, which offers a free hot meal every Sunday to those in need within our community. It operates at two locations – Woolston & St. Denys. Please choose a tag from the tree, buy the gift on the tag, wrap it and put it under the tree with the tag securely attached. We have until the 3rd Sunday of Advent to do this. Thank you very much in advance for your generosity."

HEWEB Churches Together Advent Activity: Sat 6th Dec, 10am-12.30pm. Underhill Centre, St John's Church Hedge End. For children aged 4-12. £5 per child. To book email hwebholidaybibleclubbookings@gmail.com.

Time of Prayer and Reflection for Advent: On Friday 12th December, following 10.00am Mass, we will be having a couple of hours of quiet reflection, sharing and prayer for Advent, ending the morning with a "Shared Lunch". Please come and join us in some quiet time reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas. Please bring along a plate of food to share for a social lunch. Tea, coffee, soft drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you.

Advent Carol Service: come and bring friends/family to our short, child-friendly carol service: Sunday 14th December at 4pm at St Brigid's. It'll include refreshments and a charity collection. If you could help play, sing, read or generally help, please call/Whatsapp Clare D. on 07910 781801.

Recurring Events

Our Lady of the Assumption – Hedge End

- Tea, coffee, biscuits & friendly chat in the hall every Sunday after Holy Mass
- Children's liturgy during Mass every 3rd Sunday of the month (not during summer holidays)

- 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 during term time

- Tea, coffee, biscuits & friendly chat in the hall after Holy Mass every 1st Sunday of the month
- Choir practice in hall - 7:30pm on 2nd & 4th Friday each month. All welcome.

St Brigid – West End

- Tea, coffee & cake every 2nd Sunday of the month after Mass

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on the 15th January, please submit any points of discussion to the office.

Continuing to Support 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 mention which fund you are donating to as a reference.
Make out cheques for Fr Elijah to Rev Fru N Elijah
Thank you for your support