

# 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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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year A, Cycle 2)

14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Reflection from Fr Elijah: Rejoice, the Lord is near!

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, ***Gaudete*** (“Rejoice”) Sunday, highlights the joy that comes from knowing the Lord is near. The liturgy emphasizes rejoicing, beginning with the opening prayer asking God to help believers experience the joy of Christ’s saving love. The readings echo this theme: Zephaniah urges Israel to shout for joy because God is in their midst as a victorious protector; the psalm continues this call to rejoice; and St. Paul encourages the Philippians to “be always happy in the Lord.” In the Gospel, John the Baptist announces the Messiah’s imminent arrival and calls people to prepare through justice, generosity, and care for the poor.

Joy is described as transformative and life-giving, much like sunlight on a flower or a child’s smile. It is contagious and uplifting. Yet Christian joy is not superficial cheerfulness or forced positivity. It does not ignore suffering or mask pain. As Timothy Radcliffe OP notes, it is not “happy-clappy jollity,” nor, in Seamus Heaney’s phrase, “the fixed smile of a pre-booked place in Paradise.” True joy, as John Catoir explains, is the deep awareness of God’s loving presence, a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Christian joy can exist alongside sorrow, anger, and hardship. Believers are called to share Christ’s joys and sorrows, and some of the most joyful people are those who have known profound suffering yet encountered God’s love within it. This joy is resilient, emerging even in struggle.

Ultimately, we are invited to experience and share a joy that flows from God’s tender delight in them. As the psalmist prays, “Let your face shine on us,” believers are transformed by God’s loving smile. The Church can speak credibly of the Gospel only when it embodies this divine tenderness – the true foundation of authentic Christian joy.

## Mass Times and Intentions

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 14 <sup>th</sup> December <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the repose of the soul of Sarah Barlex on the 12 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death Olive Ashley RIP For the repose of the soul of Jim Ellis
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	OLA	Mass	For souls in purgatory
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	SB	Mass	For the people
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	OLA	Mass	Matteo & Elena Salentino
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the repose of the soul of Padraig Murphy on the 7 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> December <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Private intention Alan Hood Fr John Buckley RIP
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	

This Sunday’s readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20251214/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



It is with great sadness that we share the news that Fr Shaun Budden has passed away. Further details about his funeral will be shared in due course. We thank the Lord for Fr Shaun, and for his service to our parish communities.

## Within our Parish

**Stations of Advent:** ...The Journey to Bethlehem will be taking place at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.

**Penitential Service:** On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30-7pm at Our Lady of the Assumption. Please come along to take a moment during this Advent season to spend time with the Lord and prepare for Christmas.

**Thank you:** to everyone who helped to make the Christmas Mini Mart a great success by helping, donating and buying goods and most of all for coming and joining in. Many thanks for the many lovely, beautiful and useful items that were donated. A special thank you to the dedicated team of helpers for setting up and running the event and dealing with all the unsold items afterwards. We raised £395.07, a very good result, a heartfelt thank you to everyone.

**Help with Teas and Coffees:** At CKSC we are needing more volunteers to help with the First Sunday of the Month Teas and Coffees. Any and all help is appreciated. If you're able to volunteer in this ministry, please speak with Joan Campbell, or contact the parish office. Many thanks.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (not during summer holidays)

### *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

### *St Brigid – West End*

- Tea, coffee & cake every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month after Mass

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## Christmas Collections Links:

Christ the King & St Colman: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-christ-the-king-and-st-colman-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

Our Lady of the Assumption & St Brigid: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hedge-end-our-lady-of-the-assumption-and-st-brigid-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

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