

Reflection from Fr Elijah: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas season and marks a turning point in Jesus' life, as he moves from the hidden years in Nazareth into his public ministry. The liturgy shifts focus from the infant Jesus to the adult Messiah beginning his mission. Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan is his first public act and the moment when God reveals him as his beloved Son, as the Holy Spirit descends and the Father's voice is heard. This event inaugurates a journey that will lead from Galilee to Jerusalem and ultimately to Calvary.

Jesus' baptism serves as a prologue to his mission, revealing both his obedience to the Father's will and the nature of his messiahship. Contrary to popular expectations of a political or military liberator, Jesus chooses the path of the suffering servant. Drawing on the prophecy of Isaiah, his mission is characterized by gentleness, compassion, and steadfast commitment to justice. He identifies with the poor and oppressed, brings healing and liberation, and establishes justice without violence or coercion.

Reflecting on Jesus' baptism also invites us, his disciples, to reflect on ours. Through baptism, we become children of God, members of Christ's Body, temples of the Holy Spirit, and participants in Christ's priesthood. Baptism affirms personal dignity and calls believers to recognize God's presence in others through love, service, and humility. It also carries a missionary dimension, committing us to continue Jesus' work of justice, compassion, and love.

The feast is therefore a fitting time to recall and renew our baptismal promises. The symbols of baptism – the anointing with chrism and the baptismal candle – reminds us of our consecration and the light of faith entrusted to us. We are called to reject evil, live faithfully, and witness to the Gospel through lives marked by love, mercy, forgiveness, and service.

Mass Times and Intentions**Baptism of the Lord & 1st Week in Ordinary Time**

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
Sun 11 th January <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the people For Rena Jordan for better health and recovery
Tue 13 th January	10am	OLA	Mass	For the people
Wed 14 th January	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 15 th January	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 16 th January	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 17 th January	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 18 th January	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the people Prayer for the great awakening, healing and evangelisation service

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.England/20260111/mass.htm>

Within our Parish

Service of Christian on Unity Sunday: Christians all over the world have been celebrating the birth of Christ in many different ways, but one thing that is certain and which unites us all, is our belief in God and his son Jesus. To express this unity, you are invited to join Churches Together in Hedge End, West End & Botley at 3pm on Sunday 18th January at Anchor Community Church, West End for a service to launch the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All are welcome.

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.

Within the Diocese and Beyond

Retrouvaille helps marriages: It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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

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