

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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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A, Cycle 2)

18th January 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: We're Called to Mirror Christ

Today's reflection links the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord with the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time by continuing to explore the identity and mission of Jesus and the call to witness to him as the Chosen One of God. Jesus' baptism revealed him as God's beloved Son and inaugurated his public mission; a theme deepened in the today's Scripture readings.

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah introduces the Servant of the Lord, whose mission is not limited to Israel but extends to all nations. God's saving love, Isaiah proclaims, will reach the ends of the earth through this Servant, who will be a light to the nations. This prophecy finds its complete fulfilment in Jesus, who is presented as the universal Savior, the one who takes away the sin of the world.

In the second reading, Saint Paul addresses the Christian community in Corinth, reminding them of their shared calling with all believers who acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Paul encourages them to remain faithful to the gospel they received and to recognize their place within the wider communion of saints. His words highlight that Christian faith is rooted in a personal relationship with Christ. Paul's own apostolic zeal flowed from his deep personal experience of Jesus, and we, believers of today, are likewise called to centre our lives on Christ and grow in our knowledge of him.

The Gospel reading from John emphasizes the role of John the Baptist as the first witness to Jesus' identity. When questioned by religious authorities, John makes clear that he is not the Messiah but a voice preparing the way of the Lord. He goes further by explicitly identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, revealing that Jesus' mission will be one of humble suffering rather than worldly triumph. John also testifies to seeing the Spirit descend upon Jesus at his baptism, confirming him as God's chosen one.

While John the Baptist holds a unique place as the first witness, his role foreshadows the mission of all Christians. Through baptism and the gift of the Spirit, we are called to witness to Christ and lead others to him. Like John, we are challenged to point away from themselves, reflecting – not blocking – the light of Christ in our words and actions.

This Sunday we welcome Fr Kevin who will be celebrating all Sunday Masses for us.

Mass Times and Intentions

2nd 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 & Feasts
Sun 18 th January	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people Prayer for the great awakening, healing and evangelization service
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm 6pm	SB CKSC	Mass Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 20 th January	10am	OLA	Mass	
Wed 21 st January	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 22 nd January	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 23 rd January	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 24 th January	10am	CKSC	Mass	
Sun 25 th January	9.15am	OLA	Mass	
	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/20260118/mass.htm>

Second Collection – 25th January – Cathedral

Within our Parish

Save the Date - Sun 1 February: CTiB Shared Lunch for Christian Unity to be held at Holy Saviour Church at 1230, directly after Mass. All welcome! Further details to follow next week. (No teas & coffees in the hall that day)

Blessed Palms: Please could you return any Blessed Palms you have from last year so that they may be burnt for Ash Wednesday. They will be collected at all 3 churches from now until 8th February. Thank you

Register to be a member of the Parish: If you have not yet registered to be part of our Parish family, please pick up a form from the back of our churches. When filled in please return to the Parish Office in Bitterne..... and 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

Knights of St Columba: Knights of St Columba next monthly meeting is 8th February 2026 at 20.00 at CKSC Church Hall. New members are very welcome to come along and see what we do.

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

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