

## 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 ourselves, 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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 evangelization service
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	OLA	Mass	
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> January	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	CKSC	Mass	
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> January	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.England/20260118/mass.htm>

Second Collection – 25<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 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

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