

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Called to be the Light of Christ

On this Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church invites us to listen with special attentiveness, because today we also celebrate **Word of God Sunday**. It is fitting, then, that our readings revolve around a powerful image: **light**. Isaiah proclaims that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. In the Gospel, that prophecy is fulfilled as Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, announcing, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The light that dawns is not an abstract idea. It is a person. Christ himself is the living Word of God, spoken into our darkness to guide our steps, heal our divisions, and call us into communion. Wherever Jesus goes, light follows, fishermen find new purpose, the sick are healed, and ordinary lives are drawn into God’s extraordinary plan.

Yet, Saint Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians, reminds us that light can be resisted. He speaks plainly about divisions within the Christian community – factions, rivalries, loyalties that place personalities above Christ. His appeal is urgent: “that there be no divisions among you.” This was a problem of the first century and even today.

Christian unity is not uniformity, nor is it something we manufacture by our own efforts. Unity flows from listening together to the same Word, allowing it to shape our hearts. When Scripture becomes a weapon, division grows. When it becomes a shared wellspring of grace, communion deepens.

Today, let us ask for the grace to step out of our nets – our certainties, our camps, our divisions – and walk together behind the one Lord who is not divided. May the Word of God be a lamp for our feet, a light for our path, and a bond of unity for all who call upon the name of Jesus.

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

Mass Times and Intentions**3rd 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 25 th January	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 27 th January			NO MASS	
Wed 28 th January			NO MASS	
Thur 29 th January	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 30 th January	10am	OLA	Mass	For the people
Sat 31 st January	10am	CKSC	Mass	For Agatha St Omer RIP
Sun 1 st February	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	In thanksgiving for Anthea Hollingworth on her birthday For the people For the people For the people

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.England/20260125/mass.htm>

Second Collection – 25th January – Cathedral

1st February – Lepra Mission

Within our Parish

CTIB Shared Lunch: Will be held at Holy Saviour Church at 12.30pm straight after Mass. Please come along and join with our fellow Christians to celebrate Christian Unity. Please bring some savoury food to share. Holy Saviour will provide cakes for afters. (No teas & coffees in the hall that Sunday)

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

CAFOD Rep St. Brigid's: CAFOD is the Catholic Church's official overseas aid agency. We're looking for a volunteer to be the point of contact at St. Brigid's & promote the two annual Fast Days. Could you help the world's poor by taking on this very small task? Please contact Clare, Lorna or the church office if you think this might be 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!!

Within the Diocese and Beyond

Knights of St Columba: Knights of St Columba next monthly meeting is 9th 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