

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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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A, Cycle 2)

8th February 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: You are the Light of the World

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks words that are both comforting and challenging: **"You are the light of the world."** He does not say, "Try to become light," or "One day you might be light." He says, **you are**. This identity is already given to us because we belong to him.

Light, by its very nature, is not meant to be hidden. A lamp placed under a basket is useless. In the same way, faith that remains private, silent, or disconnected from daily life fails to accomplish its purpose. Jesus reminds us that discipleship is visible. It takes shape in concrete actions that illuminate the world around us.

The first reading from Isaiah makes this very clear. The light God desires is not mere religious observance, but justice, generosity, and compassion: sharing bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed, clothing the naked. When faith expresses itself through love, then, Isaiah says, **"your light shall break forth like the dawn."**

Being the light of the world does not mean drawing attention to ourselves. Jesus is explicit: **"that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."** Christian witness is not self-promotion; it is God-directed. When our lives reflect mercy, integrity, patience, and forgiveness, people are not impressed by us – they are drawn to God.

Saint Paul reinforces this in the second reading. He did not rely on eloquence or human wisdom, but on the power of the Cross. True light flows from humility and dependence on God, not from personal brilliance.

In a world often marked by darkness, confusion, division, and fear, Christ calls us to shine. In our families, workplaces, parishes, and communities, even small acts of faithfulness can make a difference. A kind word, a moral choice, a quiet act of service, these are sparks of divine light.

Brothers and sisters, we do not create the light; Christ is the light. But we are called to carry and mirror it. Let us not hide it. Let us live so that, through us, the world may see God.

Mass Times and Intentions

4th 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 8 th February	9.15am 11am 5.30pm	OLA CKSC SB	Mass Mass Mass	For the people In memory of Maria del Rosario Millan For the repose of the soul of Elma Gibson, Lorna's Mum, on the 21st anniversary of her death.
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 10 th February	10am	OLA	Mass	
Wed 11 th February	10am	SB	Mass	For Teresa Carrington RIP
Thur 12 th February	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 13 th February	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 14 th February	10am	CKSC	Mass	For Thea-Rose St Omer's birthday
Sun 15 th February	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people For the people
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.england/20260208/mass.htm>

Within our Parish

Consultation on Formation of a Pastoral Area and Canonical Parish February 2026

Parish of Christ the King and St Colman, Our Lady of the Assumption and St Brigid's

In 2023 the Bishop published his 10-year mission plan for the catholic diocese of Portsmouth, 'You Will Be My Witness'. The diocesan vision is to bring people closer to Jesus Christ by renewing the faith of Catholics, reaching out to those who have drifted away, and welcoming those on the margins. That every parishioner is encouraged to use their gifts in the Church's mission, to care for the poor and for creation, and to reconnect with young people. The aim being to focus less on maintaining buildings and more on sharing Christ with the world.

The diocesan plan is to build Christ-centred missionary communities, Pastoral areas, founded on a strong partnership between our parishes, schools, small groups, families, and individuals all working together to grow in faith and authentically witness the love of God. Communities which reach out, welcome, and inspire so that our parish and Diocese may truly bring people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church.

To fulfil the plan the Bishop shared that new parish structures were needed to ensure sustainable resources for the future with numbers of Priests and parishioners declining. Under the Mission Plan, 87 parishes within the dioceses were to be grouped into 24 pastoral or single-parish areas that would then become canonical parishes. A Canonical Parish is a parish that is formally established in Church law. In other words, it's a Parish that officially exists according to the rules of the Catholic Church (canon law), with a defined territory, a priest, and clear responsibilities.

The Bishop had originally planned that our parish would form Southampton East Canonical Parish with Woolston and Netley. The Bishop has now proposed a change to that plan, he wishes that all the Parishes within Southampton form one Canonical Parish named 'Our Lady Star of the Sea, Southampton'. This would bring together the following 8 Parishes:

- Holy Family, Millbrook; St. Boniface, Shirley; St Joseph and St. Edmund in the city centre; St. Vincent de Paul, Lordswood; Immaculate Conception, Portswood; St. Theresa's, Totton; St Patrick's and The Annunciation, Woolston & Netley; Christ the King and St Colman & Our Lady of the Assumption and St Brigid's, Bitterne, Hedge End & West End.

In this Canonical Parish there would be:

- One Co-ordinating Parish Priest supported by a team of Priest's and Deacon's
- One central administration office
- One pastoral committee
- One finance committee
- An average Sunday Mass attendance of parishioners across the Canonical parish of over 3,000 people.

As a parishioner of Christ the King and St Colman, Our Lady of the Assumption and St Brigid's it is important to your Pastoral Council that you have the opportunity to discern (the process of listening to God so we can choose the path that leads most faithfully to Jesus and His mission) and share your views with the Bishop.

We will be sharing a questionnaire next week and we every parishioner to share their thoughts, hopes, and concerns to help guide our communal discernment. All feedback must be received by the 16th February so it can be submitted to the diocese.

God Bless, **Your Parish Pastoral Council**

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 5th March, 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