

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*

Phone 023 8044 9088, Email ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/>

Safeguarding Contact: safeguarding.soukc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

3rd Sunday in Lent (Year A, Cycle 2)

8th March 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Spiritual Thirst and the Gift of Living Water

Today's Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent, Year A, presents one of the most human encounters in Scripture: Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. Beneath the simple conversation about water lies a deeper truth about the human heart. Every person experience thirst – not only physical thirst, but a spiritual thirst for meaning, forgiveness, love, and communion with God. We often try to satisfy that thirst in many wells: success, possessions, distractions, or approval from others. Yet these sources, like the water drawn daily from the well, never finally satisfy. We return repeatedly, still searching, still thirsty.

But Jesus speaks of another kind of water: "living water." This living water is the grace of God; the life of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts. Unlike ordinary water, this gift does not merely refresh us for a moment; it becomes within us "a spring of water welling up to eternal life." During Lent, the Church invites us to recognize this deeper thirst within us. When we pray, repent, and open our hearts to Christ, he does not shame us for our emptiness. Instead, like the woman at the well, we encounter a Savior who knows our story and still offers us the gift we truly need.

The Samaritan woman arrived at the well simply to draw water; she left as a witness. Once she received the living water of Christ, she ran to share the good news. The same transformation is meant for us. When we allow Christ to satisfy our spiritual thirst – through Scripture, the Eucharist, and reconciliation – our hearts change. This Lent, let us come honestly to the well, where Christ waits to give the living water that alone can satisfy the thirst of the human soul.

Mass Times and Intentions

3rd Week in Lent

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 March	9.15am	OLA	Mass	In thanksgiving for Donald Hedges on his 75 th birthday
	11am	CKSC	Mass	In thanksgiving for Pat O'Donovan on his birthday
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	For the people
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 10 th March	10am	OLA	Mass	For Holy Souls
Wed 11 th March	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 12 th March	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 13 th March	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 14 th March	10am	CKSC	Mass	In praise and thanksgiving for blessings received by Joan St Omer
Sun 15 th March	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people
	11am	CKSC	Mass	For Fr Elijah, thanking God for his mission to serve the parish
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20260308/mass.htm>

Second collection – 15th March – Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund

Within our Parish

Thank you: I would like to thank everyone for their love and prayers while I was in hospital. Please keep up the prayers as I continue my journey to recovery. God bless you all. Joan St Omer.

Easter Mass & Service Times			
Date	Times & Location		
Thur 2 nd April	8pm (followed by watching until 11pm)	CKSC	Easter Triduum
Fri 3 rd April	3pm	CKSC	Easter Triduum
Sat 4 th April	8pm	CKSC	Easter Triduum
Sun 5 th April	9am	OLA	Mass
	11am	CKSC	Mass

Dare to Ask: This is a 5 week course on our Baptism, that has been designed to use during Lent by Southwark Diocese. It is being run in Christ the King and St Colman church 7.30-9pm starting Wednesday 4th March and finishing Wednesday 1st April. All welcome. For more information take a look at the Portsmouth Diocese newsletter. Look forward to travelling with you.

Lent Morning of Reflection: On Friday 13th March 2026, please join us after the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the OLA Hall. This will be an opportunity to pause, pray, reflect on a passage of scripture and prepare our hearts as we continue our Lenten journey. Please feel free to bring a shared lunch to enjoy together afterwards. All are welcome.

Stations of the Cross: is a simple, centuries-old 30-45 min Lenten devotion to which all are very welcome. We reflect humbly on the events around Jesus's death, and their meaning for our lives. As usual OLA and St Brigid's alternate on Wednesdays (7.30pm) throughout Lent: St Brigid's on 4th and 18th March, 1st April; OLA on 11th and 25th March.

International Exhibition: The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, Designed and created by the Servant of God Carlo Acutis. At Our Lady of Assumption Church Hall, Thur 12/03/26 12-8pm & Fri 13/03/26 1pm-4pm & Sat-Mon 14-16/03/26 10am-4pm & Tue 17/03/26 10am-3pm. www.miracolieucaaristici.org . Any donations to be made to Cafod.

Easter Egg Appeal: Stella Maris Chaplains will be visiting ships in our Southern ports during Holy Week and after Easter, and expect to bring this great celebration to many hundreds of seafarers who remain confined to their ships at this time, without the prospect of taking shore leave or visiting a church. Together with faith materials, we would like to offer Easter Eggs and chocolates, the international symbol of celebration of this Solemnity of Solemnities, and would greatly appreciate the support. Please leave gifts at Christ the King & St Colman's by Sunday 22nd March.

Income figures for Hedge End Parish for Sept-Dec 2025:

Loose offertory	£3,430.59	Closer to Christ	£305.83	Donations	£451
Standing Orders & Direct debits	£6,020	Donation Day	£50	Income Tax reclaimed	£3,480.55
Table Tennis	£535	Hall income	£913.90	CAFOD	£435.49
Candles	£110.89	Fundraising – Other	£50	World Mission	£178.20
Cricket Car Parking	£720	Christmas Mini-mart	£405.07	Bamenda	£299.11

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

- Cake & coffee after Mass on 2nd Sunday of the month; folk Mass on 4th Sunday
- Rosary & Exposition at 9.30am each Wednesday, before Mass

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on the 23rd April, 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