

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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4th Sunday in Lent (Year A, Cycle 2)

15th March 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Lord, that I may see

Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is called “*Laetare*” Sunday. Today, the Church invites us to pause from the intensity of penance and remember the hope toward which we are journeying, Easter. The rose vestments and the word *Laetare* “rejoice” – remind us that God’s light is already breaking into our darkness. The theme of today’s Gospel can be expressed in the prayer of the blind man: “**Lord, that I may see.**”

In the Gospel of John, Jesus encounters a man who has been blind from birth. The disciples are concerned about blame – who sinned, this man or his parents? But Jesus shifts the focus away from guilt and toward grace. He says that the works of God will be revealed. Then he restores the man’s sight.

The miracle is not only about physical vision; **it is about spiritual sight**. Ironically, the man who was blind gradually comes to see who Jesus truly is, while the Pharisees – who think they see clearly – remain spiritually blind. The healed man first calls Jesus a man, then a prophet, and finally he worships Him as Lord. His eyes are opened not only outwardly but inwardly.

In today’s second reading, Paul reminds us of our former dark state before Christ illuminated and liberated us. Hence, Paul admonishes: “Live as children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.” Paul means that Christ is the light that illuminates our lives. Living outside Him means abiding in darkness. Therefore, in this season and beyond, we must strive to remain in Christ, the light of our salvation.

Finally, the salvation that Christ offers us is like an illumination. Christ, obedient to God unto death, is our light. Whoever believes and accepts this illumination is like one whose eyes were opened, for Christ liberates and heals our spiritual blindness.

Mass Times and Intentions

4th 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 15 th March	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people For Fr Elijah, thanking God for his mission to serve the parish For the wellbeing of David McGowan
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 17 th March	10am	OLA	Mass	
Wed 18 th March	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 19 th March	10am	CKSC	Mass	John Whitlock
Fri 20 th March	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 21 st March	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 22 nd March	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people For Michael Zammit RIP For the repose of the souls of Elsie, Doris and relatives of the Mifsud and Camilleri families
	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/20260315/mass.htm>

Second collection – 15th March – Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund

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

Within our Parish

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.

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.miracolieuucaristici.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.

RECYCLE for CAFOD: At the back of the church in Christ the King and St Colman church there is a large box for any unwanted jewellery, electrical equipment, foreign coins, stamps etc . When it is full, it will be collected and the money raised sent to CAFOD. So if you're doing any Spring cleaning don't just throw stuff away but bring it to church to do some good for our brothers and sisters overseas. Thank you.

CTiB: THE GREAT BITTERNE BAKEOFF! Bitterne United Reformed Church is hosting The Great Bitterne Bake off on Easter Saturday, 4th April. This is set to be an excitement (and quite yummy!) community event, bringing together people from across the wider Bitterne community. Needed: 2 judges and 2-3 volunteers. Are you a cake person? Do you have judge's pallet? There will be plenty for to try! Would you like to help facilitate this event at this most holy of times? Please speak to Kate at Mass or contact her on 07814557177

Income from CKSC for September-December 2025:

Loose offertory	£1457.39	Polish Community	£1800.00	Fr Elijah Birthday Collection	£484.02
Contactless giving	£2296.74	Candles & flowers	£87.64	CAFOD	£549.29
Standing Orders & Direct debits	£7770.00	Repository	£61.91	Home Missions	£28.08
Church maintenance	£1136.94	Closer to Christ	£195.00	Missio – Foreign Missions	£253.85
Hall rent	£4880.00	Income Tax Reclaimed	£2921.87	Bamenda	£39.22
Funeral charges	£50.00	Crib	£39.22		

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