

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 Lent (Year A, Cycle 2)

22nd March 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: God Restores Everything

As Holy Week approaches, today's readings unite around a central theme: God brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and freedom out of bondage. In Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones, we encounter a people who feel completely cut off and lifeless. Yet God promises, "I will open your graves and have you rise from them," revealing His power to restore even what seems utterly lost. This is not only about Israel's renewal, but a reminder that nothing is beyond God's reach.

St. Paul brings this promise into the present by contrasting life in the flesh with life in the Spirit. To live in the flesh is to remain spiritually lifeless, turned inward and resistant to God. But if God's Spirit dwells within us, Paul assures that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is already at work in us, giving life even now, not just in the future.

This promise becomes concrete in the Gospel through the raising of Lazarus. Jesus enters fully into human suffering, sharing in our grief, yet also revealing His authority over death: "I am the resurrection and the life." His command to "take away the stone" challenges us to remove whatever blocks God's grace – fear, sin, or resentment.

When Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, it echoes Ezekiel's vision of life restored. And when others are told to "untie him," we see our role in helping one another toward freedom.

Motivated by today's exhortation, may God's grace guide and guard us all on our Lenten journey.

Mass Times and Intentions

5th 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 22 nd March	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the people For Michael Zammit RIP For the repose of the souls of Elsie, Doris and relatives of the Mifsud and Camilleri families
Tue 24 th March	10am	OLA	Mass	For Divine healing on the family and good health for Sabastian Samgwa
Wed 25 th March <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	10am	SB	Mass	John & Juliana on their Wedding Anniversary
Thur 26 th March	10am	CKSC	Mass	For Mathew Thomas RIP
Fri 27 th March	10am 5.30pm	OLA SB	Mass Penitential Service	For Stephen Byrne RIP
Sat 28 th March	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 29 th March	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	Callaghan Family Intention For RG & family for better health and future success in all they do

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20260322/mass.htm>

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

Penitential Service: On Friday 27th March at 5:30-6:30pm at Saint Brigid's. Please come along to take a moment during this Lenten season to spend time with the Lord and prepare for Easter.

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.

Easter Vigil Celebration: To celebrate the beginning of Easter, there will be refreshments in CKSC's church hall after the Vigil Mass. Please could people bring a plate of food to share, and any other drinks they may like. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available. Due to this celebration, there will not be any tea & coffee after 11am Sunday Mass.

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

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