

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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Palm Sunday (Year A, Cycle 2)

29th March 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Hosanna to Our King, Jesus Christ

Today is Palm Sunday. On this Sunday, the Church celebrates the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem in order to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. All the readings highlight the ordeal and humility of Christ, when he entered Jerusalem, and people welcomed him by laying down palm branches and cloaks on the road – treating him like a king.

Today's celebration is full of symbols. The palm is a symbol of peace: "He shall be the prince, and king of peace" (Is. 11: 1-9; 9:6). It also represents royalty and restoration. The crowd symbolizes both praise and denial. Probably, the same crowd singing "hosanna" today, soon will shout, "crucify him!" Finally, the donkey is symbolic of Christ's humility: "...He is humble. He rides on a donkey, the foal of a beast of burden" (Zac. 9: 9).

Today's gospel is from the passion narrative of Christ. It could be divided into three scenes: the arrest of Christ, his arraignment before Roman authorities, and his suffering and death. It is a drama of both praise and betrayal that ends in tragedy. Hence, the journey that started with praises (Hosanna, Hosanna), eventually ended with castigation (crucify Him, crucify him).

The humility that Christ demonstrated today is contrary to the arrogant display of wealth and fame by today's rulers and leaders. Despite being God, Christ humbly rode on the lowliest of beasts, a donkey, as opposed to a chariot for a worldly king.

Through his passion, Christ has become our role model because his cross has become our symbol of hope and salvation. So, before seeing Christ as the glorious Lord of Easter, first, we must think of him as the wounded and crucified one.

Finally, as we sing hosanna, hosanna today, let us ask God to keep us faithful till we sing the great alleluia to the glory of the risen Christ at Easter.

Mass Times and Intentions

Palm Sunday & Holy Week

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 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
Tue 31 st March			NO MASS	Chrism Mass at Cathedral at 11am
Wed 1 st April	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 2 nd April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	8pm	CKSC	Mass	
Fri 3 rd April <i>Good Friday</i>	3pm	CKSC	Service	
Sat 4 th April <i>Holy Saturday</i>	8pm	CKSC	Vigil Mass	
Sun 5 th April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	9am 11am	OLA CKSC	Mass Mass	Callaghan Family Intentions For the people

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20260329/mass.htm>

Second Collection – Friday 3rd April – Holy Places

Within our Parish

Parking for Easter Triduum: With extra parishioners attending our Easter services on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, please leave the Bitterne church car park available for those with limited mobility. Church parking will be further restricted to 4 or 5 spaces for the Saturday evening vigil as everyone will need space to gather round the fire in the car park. There's plenty of space in the public car park in Commercial St. (opposite the health centre) and it's free to park after 8pm. Thank you.

Open Church: Please be aware that OLA will not be holding it's open church session on Thursday 2nd April.

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: Calling all bakers! The Great Bitterne Bake off, Saturday 4th April, at Bitterne United Reformed Church. Fancy entering a bake into this year's Bake Off? Drop off 10-10.30am, judging 11am-1pm, cake sale from 1pm. For extra information, and to pre-register visit: <https://forms.gle/S5BVJw2KxNF2KYAC9>, or register on the day. All bakes will be sold for donations to support future CTiB community events. We can't wait to see your creations!

Quiz Night is back!! Please come along and join us in Our Lady of the Assumption Hall on Friday 24th April from 7pm (to form teams) ready for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £5.00 per adult - children free. Price includes tea/coffee/squash and a Ploughman's Supper. Feel free to bring your own alcoholic drinks and please bring some cash for a fun raffle! Tickets on sale in all churches. Please put your name and ticket number on the sign-up sheet. Looking forward to welcoming you

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

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