

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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2nd Sunday of Easter (Year A, Cycle 2)

12th April 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: The Wounds of Christ yields Merciful Hope

With these words, Thomas – the doubter turned believer – proclaims the central message of Divine Mercy Sunday. Today, we celebrate the second Sunday of Easter, a day that reveals the risen Christ not as a distant judge, but as the compassionate Savior whose wounds are the fountain of his mercy.

The Gospel shows us a locked room, mirroring the fear and anxieties that lock our own hearts. Yet, Jesus enters, saying, "Peace be with you." He doesn't reproach the disciples for abandoning him. Instead, he shows them his hands and side – his wounds, now glorified, are the proof of his unconditional love. By breathing the Holy Spirit upon them and passing on the power to forgive sins, Jesus institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the primary venue for Divine Mercy.

St. Peter, in the second reading, reminds us that through this Resurrection, we are born anew to a "living hope" [1Jn 5:1]. This hope is anchored in God's "great mercy," which promises an inheritance that is imperishable, even when our faith is tested by fire. It is a hope that allows us to rejoice even in trial, knowing that the "genuineness of our faith" will lead to the salvation of our souls.

Like the early community in the Acts of the Apostles, who shared all things in common, breaking bread and praying together, we are called to live as a community of mercy [Acts 2:42-47]. That "mercy endures forever" (Psalm 118).

Today, let us look at the wounds of Jesus and see them not as a tragedy, but as the price he paid to bring us home. We are the beneficiaries of that "second chance" grace. When we are hesitant or doubting, Christ invites us, as he did Thomas, to reach out and touch his love, to receive his peace, and to trust in his Divine mercy.

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, Have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Mass Times and Intentions

Fr Elijah is on jury service this week so weekday Mass times have changed

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 12 th April <i>Divine Mercy</i> | 9am 11am 5.30pm 6pm | OLA CKSC SB CKSC | Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish) | Callaghan Special Intentions For Michael & Josephine Shepherd RIP In thanksgiving on the occasion of the sacramental marriage of Roland & Veronica Hoskins |
| Tue 14 th April | 7pm | OLA | Mass | For the people |
| Wed 15 th April | | | NO Mass | |
| Thur 16 th April | 7pm | CKSC | Mass | For the people |
| Fri 17 th April | 7pm | SB | Mass | |
| Sat 18 th April | 10am | CKSC | Mass | For the people |
| Sun 19 th April | 9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm | OLA CKSC SB CKSC | Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish) | Intentions of Donald Hedges For the people For the reposal of the souls of Elsie, Doris and relatives of Mifsud and Camilleri families |

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20260412/mass.htm>

The sacramental marriage of Roland & Veronica Hoskins will take place during the 5.30pm Mass at St. Brigid's on Sunday 12th April. Congratulations to them both.

Within our Parish

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.

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