

# 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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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year A, Cycle 2)

26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Reflection from Fr Elijah: Christ, the Good Shepherd, who calls, saves, and guides His people

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter – **Good Shepherd Sunday** – the Church places before us a deeply consoling and demanding image: Christ as the shepherd who guides, protects, and lays down his life for the sheep.

In the Gospel, Jesus says: “I am the gate for the sheep... whoever enters through me will be saved.” This is about relationships and trust. The sheep know the shepherd’s voice. They follow not out of coercion, but recognition. The question for us is direct: do we recognize His voice amid the noise that surrounds us?

The first reading from Acts shows what happens when that voice is heard. Peter proclaims the risen Christ, and the people are **“cut to the heart.”** They ask, **“What are we to do?”** The answer is conversion – turning toward Christ, entering through the gate. About three thousand responded. The flock begins to grow, not by force, but by invitation and witness.

The second reading deepens the image. Christ is the shepherd who suffered for us, who bore our sins, and by whose wounds we are healed. He is not distant. He walks ahead of us, but also among us, even in suffering. “You had gone astray like sheep,” Peter writes, “but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”

Good Shepherd Sunday, then, is a call to discernment and fidelity. Many voices compete for our attention – voices of fear, self-interest, and distraction. The shepherd’s voice is different: it calls us to truth, to sacrifice, to life. To follow Christ is to trust that His path leads to real freedom. It is also to imitate Him. Each of us, in some way, is called to reflect the shepherd’s care – to guide, to protect, and to serve others with patience and love.

Today, let us ask for the grace to hear His voice clearly, and the courage to follow where He leads.

## Mass Times and Intentions

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 26 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the people For Brother S For McEvoy family
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	OLA	Mass	For the people
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> May	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> May			NO MASS	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the repose of the soul of Monica Dunne

This Sunday’s readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20260426/mass.htm>

**Second Collection** – 26<sup>th</sup> April – Diocesan Clergy Training Fund



## 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.

## Within the Diocese and Beyond

**How can you help the people of Sudan:** Wednesday 15 April marked three years since conflict broke out in Sudan. Today, our sisters and brothers are living through the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Millions have been forced to flee their homes and thousands have lost loved ones. "In this moment of deep suffering, CAFOD is standing alongside the people of Sudan, working through trusted local partners." Despite the extreme challenges the Sudanese people face, there is still hope. It takes all of us to support communities living in conflict. You can [call on the UK government to push for peace](#) and support those who are suffering. You can help by [donating today](#). Your donation will be with our local experts, who are working tirelessly to support families. Please also [keep those living through the conflict in your prayers](#). It takes all of us to support Sudan. We stand together. It takes you, our local experts and the communities we support all working together to build a better world.

**Statement from the Supreme Knight of the Knights of St Columba:** Over the past few weeks many Catholics around the world, our Hierarchy, Knights organisations like ourselves, our families and People of other denominations who have a deep respect for Pope Leo XIV have spoken in support of the Holy Father after the disrespectful AI generated image posted by the President of the United States of America and his continued attack on our Pontiff who is recognised as the successor to St. Peter, the rock in which Christ said he would build his Church. Our Holy father the Pope has not crossed over into the political. He should be heard and respected, not disparaged.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month; folk Mass on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday
- Rosary & Exposition at 9.30am each Wednesday, before Mass

## 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