

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 of Easter (Year A, Cycle 2)

3rd May 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: I am the Way and the Truth and the Life

On this Fifth Sunday of Easter, the Church gives us a powerful vision of what it means to live in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus declares: “I am the way and the truth and the life.” These are not abstract ideas – they are a personal invitation. Here, to know the way is not merely to follow a map, but to follow a person. To seek truth is not just about grasping concepts, but to enter into relationship with Him who reveals the Father.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the early Church facing tension and division. Yet, guided by the Spirit, they respond with wisdom – appointing deacons to serve and ensure justice within the community. This reminds us that the Christian life is not only about belief, but about concrete service. Faith must take flesh in charity, in fairness, in attention to those who are overlooked.

Saint Peter, in the second reading, deepens this identity: we are “living stones,” built into a spiritual house. Each of us has a place, a purpose, a role in God’s plan. Christianity is not passive. We are being shaped into something greater together – a dwelling place for God in the world.

So, what does this mean for us today? It means that to follow Christ is to trust Him even when the path is unclear. It means serving others, especially when it is inconvenient. And it means to recognize that our lives are part of a larger spiritual structure God is building.

Christ is the way – so we walk with Him. He is the truth – so we listen to Him. He is the life – so we live in Him. Let us ask for the grace not only to believe this, but to embody it daily.

This Sunday we welcome Fr Benedict who will be celebrating all Sunday Masses for us.

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 3 rd May | 9.15am 11am 5.30pm | OLA CKSC SB | Mass Mass Mass | For the repose of the soul of Monica Dunne |
| Tue 5 th May | 10am | OLA | Mass | |
| Wed 6 th May | 10am | SB | Mass | |
| Thur 7 th May | 10am | CKSC | Mass | |
| Fri 8 th May | 10am | OLA | Mass | |
| Sat 9 th May | 10am | CKSC | Mass | |
| Sun 10 th May | 9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm | OLA CKSC SB CKSC | Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish) | John William James George Parks RIP For the intentions of Steven Carter and family |

This Sunday’s readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.England/20260103/mass.htm>

Within our Parish

New Parish Database: The parish is now using a system called ChurchSuite to manage our parishioner database and our communications. To do this we need to renew all the information we hold about parishioners. To ensure you remain registered as a parishioner and to continue to receive all communications from the parish including the newsletter, please make sure you have filled out the new Registration Forms.

Adult form:

<https://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.churchsuite.com/-/forms/ngdyici2>



Child Form:

<https://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.churchsuite.com/-/forms/whtuwhp5>



If you have any questions, please contact Josie Keogh in person or via the parish office.

"2nd Friday" Soup: On 8th May. please join us in Our Lady of the Assumption Hall from 12.00 noon on Friday 8th May for a tasty lunch of homemade soup with crusty bread. As always, there is no charge and all gratefully received donations will go to CAFOD. We look forward to welcoming you. God Bless.

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

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 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

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