

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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7th Sunday of Easter (Year A, Cycle 2)

17th May 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Unity with Christ through Prayer, Witness, and Glorification

As we mark today, the Seventh Sunday of Easter, we stand spiritually with the apostles in the days between the Ascension and Pentecost. Jesus Christ has returned to the Father, and the disciples wait – uncertain, prayerful, and hopeful. It is in this moment that Jesus prays for His followers: “That they may all be one.”

This prayer is not simply about avoiding division. Jesus is speaking of a deep spiritual unity rooted in God Himself. He knows His disciples will face hardship, misunderstanding, and persecution. Yet He does not pray that they be removed from the world. Instead, He prays that they remain faithful within it.

That message speaks directly to us today. We live in a world marked by conflict, anxiety, and isolation. Even within families, communities, and the Church, unity can be fragile. Yet Christ reminds us that Christian unity is not built on convenience or agreement in every matter. It is built on love, forgiveness, and a shared commitment to the Gospel.

The reading from the First Letter of Peter also reminds us not to be discouraged by suffering. To follow Christ is not always comfortable. Faith sometimes demands courage – the courage to forgive, to speak truth with compassion, and to remain hopeful when the world grows cynical.

And so, like the apostles in the upper room, we wait and pray. We ask for the Holy Spirit to renew us. We ask for strength to witness to Christ not only with words, but with the way we live.

As Pentecost approaches, may we become people of deeper prayer, stronger unity, and joyful witness. And may the world see in us the answer to Christ’s prayer: “That they may all be one.”

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 17 th May	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the people For Brother S For the repose of the souls of Elsie, Doris and relatives of Mifsud and Camilleri families
Tue 19 th May			NO MASSES	
Wed 20 th May				
Thur 21 st May				
Fri 22 nd May				
Sat 23 rd May	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 24 th May	9.15am 11am 5.30pm	OLA CKSC SB	Mass Mass Mass	For the people For Margaret Mary Miller RIP dearly missed by her family Seamus McEvoy RIP

This Sunday’s readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20260517/mass.htm>

Second Collection – 17th May – Catholic Communications Network

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 ALL 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.

Pentecost Celebration at OLA: Please join us to celebrate this special feast day at OLA on 24th May after the 9.15am Mass. Refreshments will be available in the hall, tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. Please feel free to bring a selection of snacks.

Pentecost Celebration at CKSC: To celebrate Pentecost on Sunday 24th May, we will be having a shared lunch outside after 11am Mass. Everyone welcome. Please bring some food to share. If the weather is not in our favour, it shall be moved to the hall. Please note that the church car park at CKSC will be closed on Sunday 24th May due to this event.

Within the Diocese and Beyond

Engaged and Married Couples Retreat: Run by the Verbum Dei Community on the Isle of Wight - 13th - 15th June. It wants to explore how Catholic families are called to be "...like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season." (Ps 1:3) Our couples' retreats want to give space for the couple to nurture their relationship in the love of God, to grow in their communication and explore their renewed purpose and mission. For more info, please, contact: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com or www.uk.verbumdei.org.

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 3rd July, 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