

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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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A, Cycle 2)

12th July 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: The Fruitfulness of God's Word and the Dispositions of Our Hearts

Today's Gospel invites us to ask one simple but searching question: **What dispositions of my heart promotes the Gospel?**

There is an African proverb that says, *"No matter how good the seed is, it cannot grow on a rock."* Every farmer understands this truth. Before planting, the wise farmer first clears the weeds, removes the stones, and softens the ground. Good harvests begin with prepared soil, not merely with good seed. Jesus uses this familiar image to teach us a profound spiritual lesson.

In the Gospel, the seed is the **Word of God**. The Sower is God Himself, who generously scatters His Word without discrimination. As Isaiah reminds us in the first reading, God's Word is like the rain that waters the earth. It never returns empty but always accomplishes the purpose for which God sends it.

Jesus describes four kinds of soil, representing four conditions of the human heart. Some hearts are hardened by pride or resentment, preventing God's Word from taking root. Others receive it with enthusiasm but quickly give up when trials arise. Still others allow worries, wealth, and worldly distractions to choke spiritual growth. Finally, there is the good soil – the heart that listens, welcomes, and lives the Word, producing abundant fruit.

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that creation longs for God's saving work to be fully revealed. As disciples, we are called to cooperate with that work by allowing God's Word to transform us from within. A fruitful disciple of Christ is not simply one who hears the Gospel but one who lives it every day through acts of love, forgiveness, generosity, justice, and faithful service.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us ask the Holy Spirit to remove whatever hardens our hearts, uproot the weeds of distraction, and deepen our faith. Then the seed of God's Word will flourish within us, and our lives will bear fruit – thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

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 12 th July	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For Sandra Webb For Agatha and Gerald St Omer, and Elizabeth Innocent RIP Mary-Ann Allen RIP
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 14 th July	10am	OLA	Mass	Kathleen & John Pearson & deceased relatives
Wed 15 th July	10am	SB	Mass	
Thur 16 th July	10am	CKSC	Mass	In thanksgiving
Fri 17 th July	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 18 th July	10am	CKSC	Mass	Anastasia & Thomas Pearson & deceased relatives
Sun 19 th July	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Callaghan family intentions For Frank & Margery Wearden RIP
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20260712/mass.htm>

Second Collections – 12th July – Stella Maris

Within our Parish

Birthday Celebration: Come and celebrate our lovely Lorna who is celebrating a milestone birthday this week. Please join us for cake and coffee after 5.30pm Mass at St Brigid's! Lorna does so much for us, our Parish and Fr Elijah – particularly in leading our PPC. We are so blessed to have her serve our community, which she does with such love.

First Reconciliation and Holy Communion preparation: All parents who would like their child, in Year 4 or above, to make their First Holy Communion in our parish this year are asked to register their interest NOW by sending an email to the parish office ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please could you include your name, your child's name, which school they attend and in which year group they will be in September. You will then be sent an introductory letter. Please ensure that you and your family are registered with Churchsuite. Thank you.

New Parish Database: Thank you to those who have already registered with the parish. To ensure you remain registered as a parishioner and to continue to receive all communications from us at the parish office and Fr Elijah, please complete the below 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.

Fr Elijah: Will be unavailable for the whole of August. If there are any requests you wish to make with him, please contact him soon. Thank you.

Thank you for raising £623 in aid of Mountbatten Hospice at our tea party: Local people and some from different denominations, as well as parishioners packed the hall of Our Lady of the Assumption last Saturday afternoon to support Mountbatten Hospice. The hall was beautifully decorated with sunflowers and transformed into a tea room. There was a stunning array of delicious homemade cakes, scones and sandwiches with endless tea to quench thirsts. A massive thank you to the amazing team of parishioners who made the day possible by bringing their various talents together to make a successful event for Mountbatten hospice.

Red Box 2025 - Thank you: In 2025, Christ the King & St Colman raised £1130.41 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here at CKSC is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Communities around the world who are being supported by missionaries like the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who feature on this year's Red Box Thank You Poster, rely on your support so they can continue to flourish. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more.

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)

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

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