

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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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A, Cycle 2)

26th July 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Seeking Understanding for the Mysteries of the Kingdom

Many of us have watched *Antiques Roadshow* when someone brings along an old object that has sat unnoticed in a loft or cupboard for years. They think it is ordinary – until the expert reveals its true value. Suddenly, everyone looks at it differently.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like discovering treasure hidden in a field or finding a pearl of extraordinary value. The important question is not simply, "What is it worth?" but, "Can we recognise its value when it is right in front of us?"

The people in Jesus' parables recognise something priceless. Once they see its true value, their priorities change. They willingly let go of everything else – not reluctantly, but joyfully – because they know that what they have found is worth far more.

The first reading gives us another example. When God tells Solomon to ask for anything, Solomon does not request wealth, a long life, or victory over his enemies. He asks for an understanding heart: the wisdom to distinguish between good and evil. Solomon recognises that wisdom is a greater treasure than power or possessions. Our lives are filled with competing treasures: money, success, comfort, reputation and security. These things are not necessarily wrong, but they can never bear the full weight of our hopes. They cannot give us the lasting joy, peace and purpose for which we were created.

The Kingdom of God is not merely a future reward in heaven. It begins wherever Christ is welcomed and his way is chosen: when we forgive rather than seek revenge, serve rather than demand attention, share with those in need, and remain faithful when discipleship is costly. In such moments, the hidden treasure becomes visible. St Paul reminds us that God is at work in all things for the good of those who love him. Even through uncertainty and difficulty, God is shaping us into the likeness of his Son. That too requires wisdom: the ability to recognise God's presence when it is not immediately obvious.

Today, let us ask for Solomon's understanding heart. May we recognise the treasure already offered to us in Christ, receive it with joy, and allow its true value to reorder everything else in our lives.

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 th July	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Memorial of my father – Pascal Mgembe For the repose of the souls of Elsie, Doris and relatives of Mifsud and Camilleri families
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 28 th July	11am	OLA	Funeral Mass	Requiem Mass for George Smale
Wed 29 th July	10am	SB	Mass	Thank you, Lord, for all he has done for my family (C Smallwood)
Thur 30 th July	10am	CKSC	Mass	For Agatha & Gerald St Omer & Elizabeth Innocent RIP
Fri 31 st July	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 1 st August	10am	CKSC	Mass	
Sun 2 nd August	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Anne Fagan 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/20260726/mass.htm>

The funeral Mass of George Smale will be at 11am on Tuesday 28th July at Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End. Please join us and Helen to thank the Lord for George's life. Please continue to keep George, Helen and the family in your prayers.



Within our Parish

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.

Care Home Ministry: Our team at St Brigid's currently visits two elderly-care homes monthly, for short uplifting (ecumenical) hymn-singing services and chats with residents. We could also give Holy Communion to any Catholic residents requesting it. We'd love: (1) more occasional volunteers, to boost numbers and cover absences (you can try it out before needing a DBS check); (2) to know of care home/housebound Catholics near West End who'd appreciate a visit and/or Communion. Please contact the parish office with any requests, or Clare on 07910 781801 to offer help.

CAFOD Call for Action on Debt: Following last year's petition we are keeping the pressure on the government and demanding more to be done to reduce the debt crisis in third world countries. In particular we are asking them to pass a UK debt justice Law and to lead urgent global reform. The petition will be available to sign on Sunday 19th July at the back of our churches. For more information check out the CAFOD website campaign@cafod.org.uk. Thanks for your continued support of our brothers and sisters across the world.

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