

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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30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A, Cycle 2)

25th October 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: The Two Dimensions of Love

On this 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church reminds us that love is the most important theological virtue. In today's readings, Jesus presents two dimensions of love: the vertical dimension, which is our love for God, and the horizontal dimension, which is our love for our neighbours. These two dimensions are inseparable and form the foundation of Christian life.

In the first reading, God warns against oppressing strangers, widows, and orphans. He condemns injustice, especially against the poor, the weak, and the defenceless. Through this message, God teaches us to treat everyone with justice, compassion, and love, regardless of their social status or circumstances.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the Thessalonians of how they were transformed from their former pagan way of life through the power of the Gospel. Their acceptance of the Good News demonstrated their love for God. St. Paul praises their faith and encourages them to remain steadfast in love as they await the coming of the Lord.

In the Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus which commandment is the greatest. Jesus responds by identifying two essential commandments: to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Loving God requires sacrifice, humility, and total commitment. However, this love cannot be separated from our love for others. We cannot genuinely claim to love God while hating or neglecting our neighbours, as St. John reminds us in his first letter.

Therefore, the best way to demonstrate our love for God is through our actions towards others. Charity must begin at home, extending to our families, neighbours, friends, and everyone we encounter.

Ultimately, genuine love brings peace and goodness into our lives and the lives of others. Those who desire peace must help others live in peace, and those who wish to live well must contribute to the well-being of others. The true value of our lives lies in the positive impact we make on the lives of those around us.

As we reflect on these teachings, let us strive to love God wholeheartedly and express that love through kindness, justice, compassion, and service to our neighbours, proclaiming with the Psalmist: **"I love you, Lord, my strength."**

Mass Times and Intentions

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 25 th October	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Deceased priests of the parish Fr Paul Spellman & Fr James Carling For the people For the repose of the souls of Elsie, Doris & relatives of Mifsud & Camilleri families
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 27 th October	9.30am	OLA	Mass	Callaghan family intentions
Wed 28 th October	9:30am	SB	Mass	For the people
Thur 29 th October	9.30am	CKSC	Mass	George & Lily Watkins & Relations
Fri 30 th October	9.30am	OLA	Mass	For the people
Sat 31 st October	9.30am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 1 st November <i>All Saints</i> <i>Bamenda Sunday</i>	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Peter Klapprott RIP
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Mon 2 nd November <i>All Souls</i>	9.30am	OLA	Mass	
	12pm	SB	Mass	
	7pm	CKSC	Mass	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20261025/mass.htm>

Second Collection – 1st November – Bamenda Sunday

Bamenda Sunday: Special collection on 1st November. Please be generous in your donation for the many parishes, schools, hospitals, health centres and social projects we support in our twinned diocese in Cameroon. At CKSC on 1st November we will be celebrating Bamenda Sunday by having tea & coffee after Mass and would love for people to bring cakes and snacks to share as a community.

Within our Parish

Confirmation 2027: If you or someone you know is interested in exploring your/their Faith and possibly receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, please write to the office briefly, giving your details and why you would like to join us in this venture. You would need to be in Year 9 and above. There will be an introductory meeting at the beginning of December. Watch this space for more details.

Update from the Parish Pastoral Council:

- Larger Pastoral Area update – Following the feedback sent to the Bishop regarding the formation of one large Southampton Parish, the Bishop is looking at alternative plans for the Diocese. One possibility is looking at the Arundel & Brighton Diocese model where neighbouring parishes work as one but keep individual identity.
- Thanks go out to the St Brigids Cricket car parking team who have raised over £4,000 this year. Next year is a bust year so we would love more volunteers to help.
- Christmas Mass times:

- 24th CKSC 5.30pm Christmas Family Mass
- 24th OLA 10:30pm Midnight Mass
- 25th SB's 9:30am Christmas Morning Mass
- 25th CKSC 11am Christmas Day Mass

Within the Diocese and Beyond

Visit of the relics of St Gerard Majella: On Friday 30th October, the relics of St Gerard Majella will be at St Edmund's, Southampton (SO17 1XJ) for a 7pm Mass followed by individual or family blessings. St Gerard is the patron of mothers, couples trying to conceive, those looking for work, and making a good confession. See poster for details - all welcome, and bring your petitions to this little saint!

Portsmouth Diocese Parish Evangelisation Formation Day: Saturday October 31st, 10am – 1:30pm, Christ the King, Reading, RG2 8NR Last chance to sign up! Explore how parish groups, one of our Diocese's Six Holy Habits, can deepen our faith and impact our parishes as they become welcoming places for all. Lunch will be provided as part of the day. Please register by email Meghan on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or using the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/JGgE7zeuun> as this helps us with ensuring we have enough food and have catered for people's needs. We ask people to register by Tuesday 27th October.

Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day! Thank you for putting your faith into action this Family Fast Day. Your generous donations will help more children stay in school. Children like Tayla in Zimbabwe, where CAFOD's local partners worked with her community to install a solar powered water supply. Now Tayla has access to safe water and nutritious food at school, helping her to keep learning and develop her God given talents.

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

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on 14 Jan, 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