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 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.30am–1pm*
Phone 023 8044 9088, Email ckscolasb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/
Safeguarding Contact: Anthea Hollingworth: safeguarding.soukc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A, Cycle 2) 8th November 2026

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Keep Your Lamps Burning: Be Wise, Be Prepared and Be Ready to Meet the Lord

Dear friends in Christ,

Today's readings invite us to reflect on the importance of wisdom, vigilance and spiritual preparedness as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the first reading, we are reminded that wisdom is available to those who sincerely seek her. True wisdom is not simply having knowledge or being intelligent; it is the ability to recognise God's presence, listen to His voice and make choices that lead us closer to Him.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us the parable of the ten virgins. Five were wise, while five were foolish. All ten were waiting for the bridegroom, but only five had enough oil for their lamps. When the bridegroom arrived unexpectedly, the wise virgins were ready, while the foolish ones were left unprepared.

The oil in their lamps reminds us of the faith, prayer, love, good works and commitment to God that we must nurture every day. We cannot borrow someone else's faith when difficulties come. Neither can we postpone our relationship with God until tomorrow. Each of us must personally cultivate a living relationship with Christ.

The second reading also offers us a message of hope. St Paul reminds the Thessalonians that we should not grieve like those who have no hope, because through the resurrection of Jesus, we believe that death is not the end. Our hope is in the promise of eternal life with God.

Dear friends, we do not know the day or the hour when the Lord will come. However, we know how we should live while waiting. We must forgive those who hurt us, love our neighbours, care for the needy, remain faithful in prayer and make peace with one another.

May we never become Christians who appear faithful outwardly but lack a living interior relationship with God. Instead, may we continually nourish our faith and keep our hearts ready for the Lord.

Keep your lamps burning, for the Lord is coming.

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 8th November	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Danny Brown RIP
	11am	CKSC	Mass	Anne & Edward Fagan RIP
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	For the people
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 10th November	9.30am	OLA	Mass	For deceased members of the parish
Wed 11th November	9:30am	SB	Mass	For the people
Thur 12th November	9.30am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Fri 13th November	9.30am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 14th November	9.30am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 15th November	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people
	11am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
This Sunday's readings can be found at https://universalis.com/europe.england/20261101/mass.htm				
Second Collection –15th November – Priests retirement fund				

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.

Parish Office: The times of when the parish office is open have changed to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

OLA Friday Soup: A huge 'thank you' to everyone who has supported 'Friday Soup' during 2026. Your generosity for CAFOD has been wonderful; October's Soup raised an amazing £92.10! With a busy time coming upon us, the Soup Makers are taking a break; we very much look forward to welcoming you for the First Friday Soup in 2027 on Friday 5th February 2027. With thanks and God Bless.

OLA Children's Liturgy: in November will take place on Sunday 22nd November when we will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and not on 3rd Sunday of the month (15th Nov) as usual. We look forward to welcoming as many of our children as possible. Thank you and God Bless.

A Christmas Breakfast: Immediately after 9.15am Mass at OLA. Enjoy hot bacon or sausage in a roll, cakes, mince pies & stollen with hot drinks. There will be with several traditional games for children and the young at heart and a raffle too. Make sure to bring cash on the day, all financial donations for drinks & food, games (20p a go) and raffle going to church funds. You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent. See you all there!

SCRATCH Christmas Toy Appeal: This year SCRATCH are asking for new toy donations through their Amazon Wishlist (see QR code below) or financial giving (see QR code below) as well as toiletries for teenagers. However, if anyone prefers to buy a new toy or toiletries, then please leave the item in OLA at a weekday or Sunday Mass and I will deliver it to SCRATCH during the first week of December. Thank you.

Financial Giving  Amazon Wishlist 

Carol Service: We invite everyone across our three churches to a Christmas Carol Service to be held on Saturday December 19th at 7pm at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church. We hope to see lots of families to help create a beautiful festive atmosphere that we can all enjoy. Tea, coffee and mince pies to follow in the hall afterwards. Singers for the choir will be most welcome too!

Within the Diocese and Beyond

Knights of St Columba: The Knights of St. Columba Council 136 Southampton. Will be meeting on Monday 9th November 2026, in the parish hall of Christ the King & St. Colman Bitterne, at 20:00 and would welcome new members.

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

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