

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)

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Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Year C, Cycle 1)

23rd November 2025

Reflection from Fr Elijah: The Kingship of Jesus

The solemnity of Christ the King marks the end of the Church's liturgical year. This feast explores the true meaning of Christ's kingship. Instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI to counter rising secularism, and later renamed and moved by Pope Paul VI in 1969, the feast invites believers to reflect on what kind of "king" Jesus is. Traditional images of kingship – wealth, power, and distance – contrast sharply with the Jesus portrayed in the Gospels. Jesus is the itinerant teacher with no place to rest, the compassionate healer, the good shepherd seeking the lost, the servant who came not to be served but to serve, and the suffering Messiah who forgave even his executioners.

Today's feast emphasizes that Jesus' ministry was entirely centred on the Kingdom of God, a phrase that appears 122 times in the Gospels, mostly on Jesus' own lips. His teachings, healings, table fellowship with outcasts, and acts of forgiveness all revealed a kingdom that brings good news to the poor, freedom to captives, sight to the blind, and hope to the oppressed. This kingdom is one of love, mercy, and liberation.

Today's Gospel portrays the heart of Jesus' kingship: forgiveness. Even in the agony of the Cross, Jesus offers mercy to the repentant thief, assuring him of paradise. St. Paul similarly teaches that through Christ, believers are delivered from darkness and offered forgiveness and freedom.

Yet forgiveness is difficult for many. We often hold grudges, nurture resentment, or avoid those who have hurt us, forgetting how deeply God has forgiven us. Forgiveness heals, restores relationships, liberates the heart, and brings inner peace even when unreciprocated. By choosing forgiveness, Christians most clearly reflect the kingship of Christ and help extend God's reign of love in the world.

Happy Feast to our Parish

Mass Times and Intentions

33rd week in Ordinary Time

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 23 rd November <i>Christ the King</i>	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Mary Holden Roddick RIP Praise and Thanksgiving to God for Joan St Omer on her 77 th birthday For the people
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm 6pm	SB CKSC	Mass Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 25 th November	10am	OLA	Mass	For Gerald Martin RIP
Wed 26 th November	10am	SB	Mass	For John and Renee McCarthy
Thur 27 th November	10am	CKSC	Mass	For Ann Marie Whitlock
Fri 28 th November	10am	OLA	Mass	
Sat 29 th November	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 30 th November <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people For Anne & Edward Fagan RIP For the repose of the souls of Guido Camilleri, Francis, Antonia, Doris, and Elsie
	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/20251123/mass.htm>



Requiem Mass for Fr Daivd Quarmby RIP (Previous Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Assumption) will take place at 12:15pm on Monday 1st December 2025 at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

Within our Parish

Christmas Mini Mart: on Sunday 30th November 2025 after mass at the Church Hall in Hedge End. Donation boxes are at the back of the church in Hedge End and West End, tickets on sale NOW! Good condition items only and has not passed its sell-by-date. Please no bric-a-brac, old books or clothes or earrings. Mince pies and Christmas biscuits can also be donated on the day. Set up on Saturday 29th November at 10am. please do come along and help. We need someone to organise and run the tombola and someone to sell tickets at Hedge End and West End. If interested, please contact beagillmartin@googlemail.com

SCRATCH Christmas Complete Appeal 2025: We have been asked to collect donations of excellent quality second-hand books, games, puzzles and soft toys only. No other second hand toys are being collected this year. You can visit their website www.scratchcharity.co.uk to buy a gift from Amazon to be directly delivered to SCRATCH. Donations can be dropped off at the OLA hall on Saturday, Nov 29th and Sunday, Nov 30th from 10am - 4pm.

CKSC Giving Tree - Stella Maris Christmas Chocolate Appeal: Can you help us give chocolates to Seafarers arriving in our ports this Christmas? Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world. We want to show them that they are not forgotten this Christmas. Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts? If so, please put your gifts under our Advent giving tree at Christ the King & St Colman's church by Sunday 14th December. THANK YOU!

OLA Giving tree: The Christmas Giving Tree gifts this year will again be going to POITIERS CARE A Catholic Organisation supporting people in need in and around the Southampton area. We are gifting Christmas Treats: biscuits, chocolates, tins of fruit, sweets, ready-made custard, tinned cream, tinned ham, snacks, 'long-life' jellies/trifles, mince pies, crackers ... any Christmas themed treats and foods you can think of. Please place your gifts under the tree, by Sunday 14th December. Stuck for ideas? Take a tag or two from the tree, bring your gift(s) along and help bring some "Christmas Cheer" to so many families who are less fortunate than us.

Time of Prayer and Reflection for Advent: On Friday 12th December, following 10.00am Mass, we will be having a couple of hours of quiet reflection, sharing and prayer for Advent, ending the morning with a "Shared Lunch". Please come and join us in some quiet time reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas. Please bring along a plate of food to share for a social lunch. Tea, coffee, soft drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you.

Advent Carol Service: come and bring friends/family to our short, child-friendly carol service: Sunday 14th December at 4pm at St Brigid's. It'll include refreshments and a charity collection. If you could help play, sing, read or generally help, please call/Whatsapp Clare D. on 07910 781801.

Parish Safeguarding Minister: Are you a good listener and a friendly face? We need a safeguarding representative from Christ the King & St Colman's who is happy to be a point of contact to those in our church who need a little help. If you are interested in more information, please contact the parish office, or speak with Fr Elijah directly.

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

- Tea, coffee & cake every 2nd Sunday of the month after Mass

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on the 15th January, 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