

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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2nd Sunday of Advent (Year A, Cycle 2)

7th December 2025

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Conversion of Heart in Preparation for the Coming of the Messiah

Today, the 2nd Sunday of Advent, highlights the call to *repentance, spiritual renewal, and active preparation* for Christ's coming. John the Baptist's urgent message "Prepare the way of the Lord," invites believers to turn away from sin, embrace inner transformation, and begin living according to the values of God's kingdom. This conversion is rooted in hope, inspired by Isaiah's vision of the peaceful Messiah who brings justice and harmony to the world.

Isaiah's prophecy speaks of a shoot from the stump of Jesse, a messianic figure filled with the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and justice. This promised Messiah ushers in a world where peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the transformation of relationships – symbolized by wolves dwelling with lambs and children leading once-dangerous creatures. This vision reveals God's longing to restore creation to harmony and justice, offering hope to all who find themselves in situations of discouragement or division.

Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, encourages believers to live in endurance, encouragement, and unity, welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed us. Advent thus becomes a season to deepen our solidarity, recognizing that God's saving work is meant for all peoples.

The Gospel introduces John the Baptist, whose cry in the wilderness – "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" – forms the heart of the day's message. His call is urgent and uncompromising. Preparing for the coming of the Lord demands a realignment of attitudes and behavior: sincerity over empty ritual, conversion over complacency.

Together, the readings proclaim that Advent is both promise and summons. God promises renewal, peace, and a just Messiah. But His coming invites our active response: repentance, openness, and a commitment to live according to the values of the kingdom.

Mass Times and Intentions

2nd Week of Advent

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 7 th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For Don Taylor RIP For Shaun Budden RIP For vulnerable young people
Mon 8th December <i>Solemnity of Immaculate Conception</i>	10am	OLA	Mass	In thanksgiving to God for Dominic and Gertie Milner on their 51 st Wedding Anniversary, and Joan St Omer's good health
Tue 9 th December			NO MASS	
Wed 10 th December	10am	SB	Mass	For the people
Thur 11 th December	10am	CKSC	Mass	For members of the Steele, Franklin, Nelson and Kelly families
Fri 12 th December	10am	OLA	Mass	For the Souls in Purgatory
Sat 13 th December	10am	CKSC	Mass	In thanksgiving to God for Frank Reading on his birthday
Sun 14 th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am 11am 5.30pm 6pm	OLA CKSC SB CKSC	Mass Mass Mass Mass (in Polish)	For the repose of the soul of Sarah Barlex on the 12 th anniversary of her death For the people For the repose of the soul of Jim Ellis

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.english/20251207/mass.htm>

Christmas Mass Times

24th Dec CKSC 6pm Carols, 6:30pm Family Mass

25th Dec St Brigids 9am Carols, 9:30am Morning Mass

24th Dec OLA 10pm Carols, 10:30pm Midnight Mass

25th Dec CKSC 11am Mass



It is with great sadness that we share the news that Fr Shaun Budden passed away on Sunday.

Further details about his funeral will be shared in due course. We thank the Lord for Fr Shaun, and for his service to our parish communities.

Fr John Buckley (previous priest at Our Lady of the Assumption) passed away on Wednesday. Please pray for him and his family.

Within our Parish

CKSC Giving Tree: For Stella Maris. 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: For Poitiers Care, an 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.

SB Giving tree: For the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project, which offers a free hot meal every Sunday to those in need within our community. Please choose a tag from the tree, buy the gift on the tag, wrap it and put it under the tree with the tag attached by 14th December please. Thank you very much in advance for your generosity.

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.

Penitential Service: On Friday 19th December at 5:30-7pm at Our Lady of the Assumption. Please come along to take a moment during this Advent season to spend time with the Lord and prepare for Christmas.

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