

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

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7th Sunday of Easter: Year B, Cycle II

12th May 2024

We May All Be One

Jesus' return to Heaven at the Ascension, marks an end to his physical presence on earth and a commencement of the mission of the disciples. But this transition is not going to be easy. There are salient questions to ponder upon. What is to become of Jesus' followers when he returns to his Father? What can they expect? Should they withdraw from the world? Should they disband and disperse? And if not, what spirit should animate them? In the wake of the Ascension, these are vital questions – questions, in the last analysis, about the Church that today's liturgy addresses.

As we approach the great feast of Pentecost, the Church reminds us that the accomplishment of Christ's missionary mandate to us can only be achieved through unity as the body of Christ. In his prayer to the Father the night before his death, it is clear that in Jesus' mind and intention, his disciples are to remain together. Further still, they are to be so closely united as to be one, "as I and the Father are one." That the apostles understood this is witnessed to not merely by the fact that after the Ascension they all gathered in the Upper Room awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, as he had commanded them, but that they immediately set about choosing a successor for Judas (First Reading).

Becoming one, they are to call together all his people in one "gathering" (qahal, Hebrew, or ekklesia, Greek), which in English we call the Church. Jesus' Church is not to hide itself away. In fact, Jesus has "sent them into the world," precisely so that through them others can come to believe (John 17:20). However, they are to be different ("not of the world"), animated by a different spirit: "consecrated (i.e., set apart) ... by means of the truth." The world, in greater or lesser measure in different epochs will value expediency, or fame, or pleasure, or popularity, or power, or wealth; but what sets his followers apart is their dedication (consecration) to teaching the world the truth about God, about humanity, and about life and death.

In the gospel reading of today, Jesus exercises his priestly character distinctly by interceding for his disciples. As a priestly people, our role as intercessors cannot be under-estimated. The emphasis in this section is on the safety of the believer; God keeps His own (John 17:11-12). Our safety depends on the nature

of God, not our own character or conduct. When he was on earth, Jesus kept his disciples, and they could depend on him. "I kept them in my name" (John 17:12), says Jesus. We also have the fellowship of the Church: "That they may be one, as we are" (John 17:11). The New Testament knows nothing of isolated believers; wherever you find saints, you find them in fellowship. Why? Because God's people need each other. Jesus opened his upper room message by washing the disciple's feet and teaching them to minister to one another. No wonder the disciples discovered how weak they were and how they needed each other. The believer, then, is secured in Christ for many reasons: the very nature of God, the nature of salvation, the glory of God and the intercessory ministry of Christ.

A very ancient tradition about the apostle John – essentially transmitted to us in the entire letter from which today's second reading is taken – tells that when the apostle was very old, his disciples used to carry him into the liturgical gatherings of the Christians at Ephesus, and ask him to speak, and that every time he would repeat the same few words: "My little children, love one another," over and over again. It was deeply ingrained in John's memory that this was Jesus' last will and the distinguishing mark he had willed for his Church: "by this all will know that you are my disciples" (John 13:35).

In conclusion, the Word of God which Jesus gives us today brings us joy, love and power to live a holy life. It also gives us what we need to serve Him as witnesses in this world. Jesus' prayer that the Father should sanctify us is not for the purpose of selfish enjoyment or boasting; it is that we might represent Christ in this world and win others to Him. We are reminded that as the Holy Spirit sanctifies us, ours is not to become proud or adopt a holier than thou attitude. Instead, we are called to witness, and we had better obey. How can we be overcome by the world when we have the Word of God to enlighten us, enable us and encourage us? Our call to remain faithful to the truth is nourished, brought forward and sustained by living fraternal charity.

Fr. Elijah

7th Sunday of Easter 12th May 2024

- 9.15am **Our Lady of the Assumption** (Hedge End)
For the people
- 11.00am **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
The Reading Family
- 5.30pm **St. Brigid** (West End)
Siobhan Waters RIP
- 6.00pm **Christ the King & St Colman** (Bitterne)
Polish Mass

Weekday Mass Times (14th – 19th May)

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

CKSC – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

SB – St Brigid (West End)

- Tue 14th 10.00am **OLA** *Special Intention*
- Wed 15th 10.00am **SB** *Special Intention*
- Thu 16th 10.00am **CKSC** *For the people*
- Fri 17th 10.00am **OLA** *Special Intention*
- Sat 18th **CKSC** **NO MASS**
- Sun 19th 9.15am **OLA** *Simpson family & deceased relatives*
- 11.00am **CKSC** *People affected by war*
- 5.30pm **SB** *Deceased teachers of La Sagesse School*
- 6.00pm **CKSC** *Polish Mass*

Second Collection next Sunday (19th May) is for the Catholic Communication Network 2024

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tues – Fri)

Sacrament of Confession is available on request

Please consider offering Mass Intentions for families and friends (contact Fr. Elijah or Parish Office)

Easter Collections:

Your Easter Donations via the Give as you Live websites, would be sincerely appreciated:

CKSC: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/southampton-christ-the-king-and-st-colman-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024>

OLA & SB:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hedge-end-our-lady-of-the-assumption-and-st-brigid-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024>

Keep in touch with Portsmouth Diocese

@PortsmouthRC Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

@PortsmouthRC

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

If you have news to share, contact:

communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Novena to the Holy Spirit

Leaflets are available at the back of all the churches for use to pray this Novena. Please only take one if you are committed to pray. Let us all pray for a renewal in the Spirit so that our churches will be alive in Christ.

Pentecost May 19th

Save the date!! We will have an international feel to the mass at CKSC. Followed by an international shared lunch. Please bring something representative of your culture!! All welcome to join us for mass, lunch or both.

Baptism of Olivia Dinnage

We welcome Olivia Dinnage who will be baptised at Christ the King & St Colman, Bitterne during the 10am Mass on Saturday 11th April. Please keep Olivia and her family in your prayers.

Wedding of Clare O'Brien and Nicholas Hayes

Congratulations to Clare O'Brien and Nicholas Hayes who celebrate their marriage at 1.00pm on Saturday 11th May at St. Brigid's Church.

Faith on Fire group not meeting until July

There will be no Faith on Fire for March, April, May and June, until after the confirmation on 30th June.

OPEN CHURCH: Our Lady of the Assumption

Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Hedge End is open for private prayer every Thursday from 10am until midday. To join the rota, please contact Pauline or Jane.

OLA - Friday Soup 10th May 2024

First Friday Soup for May will be on **the Second Friday of May!**

Please do come along and join us for a lunch of delicious home-made soup and crusty bread being served from **12.00 noon** on **FRIDAY 10th MAY** in Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall.

There is no charge. However, donations will be gratefully received for CAFOD.

We look forward to seeing you on 10th May. With thanks and God bless.

CKSCOLASB Calendar of Events

OLA – Our Lady of the Assumption (Hedge End)

CKSC – Christ the King & St. Colman (Bitterne)

SB – St Brigid (West End)

MAY

- Sun 12th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)
Tea, Coffee & Cake after Mass (SB Hall)
- Tue 14th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Wed 15th 7.00-8.30pm **Carer's Group** (OLA Hall)
- Thu 16th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 19th **Children's Liturgy** during Mass (OLA)
- Tue 21st 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 23rd 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)
- Sun 26th 12.30-2pm **Youth Meeting** (CKSC)
- Tue 28th 9.30am-12pm **Table Tennis** (OLA Hall)
7.30-9pm **Growing in Faith** (OLA)
- Thu 30th 10.30am-12pm **Prayer Group** (CKSC)
10am-12 noon **Open Church** (OLA)

Recurring Events

Our Lady of The Assumption (Hedge End)

- **Tea Coffee, Biscuits, Friendly Chat** (and often cake) in the hall every Sunday after Holy Mass
- **Children's Liturgy** during Mass every 3rd Sunday of the Month (except in July/August)
- **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** Thursday from 10am-12 noon (OLA)

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
- **Faith on Fire** 8-9pm last Wednesday of every month except **March, April, May, June, December**
- **Youth Meetings** 12:30 -14:00 on 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month
- **Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & friendly chat** in the hall every 1st Sunday of the month

St Brigids (West End)

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

If you would like a future event to be included in the Calendar of Events, kindly advise the Parish office.

Invitation to leave a legacy for CAFOD

Join CAFOD's Director Christine Allen to explore the power of leaving a gift in your Will to make a lasting impact in the world, at Our Lady of Sorrows & St. Philip Benizi in Fordingbridge SP6 1EG on Tuesday 18 June, 10.45am to 12:25pm.

To find out more and to book your place please go to cafod.org.uk/legacyevent

St Colman's celebration BBQ – 9th June

St Colman's celebration BBQ will include a second-hand sale on Sunday 9th June to raise much needed funds for our parish. ITEMS WANTED! Must be in a re-sellable condition: Books, games, toys, toiletries, bags, DVDs, CDs, household items, accessories, unused gifts, stationery etc.

Please place your donated items in the boxes in the church porch by Saturday 8th June. If you want to help then please speak to Sonia or Richard Davis, or send an email into the parish office. Thank you.

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

Please can anyone who has been, is currently, or wishes to be a Eucharistic Minister contact the church office so we can update our information list. We are especially in need of ministers who would be willing to visit parishioner at home or their place of care.

Father Elijah is talking to the deanery about Eucharistic minister training. The idea is that those who have previously done a course should carry out refresher training.

As yet no date has been set for training.

CAFOD - A Year of Encounter

A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

CAFOD provides practical support to people and communities in need around the world. We are all invited to play our part in creating the social conditions necessary to build a world that reflects the Kingdom of God.

Parish Web Pages on Diocesan Website

Parish web pages are on the diocesan website at:

- [Christ the King & St Colman](#)
- [Our Lady of the Assumption](#)
- [St Brigid](#)

They can also be selected from

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parishes/

Continuing Support of 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 use your surname as a reference.

Make out cheques for Fr Elijah to Rev Fru N Elijah

Thank you for your support.

Sudan Crisis Appeal 2024

Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis- extreme hunger. please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at <https://cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal>. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and help to get medicines, as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and your prayers.

Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee

On Ascension Day the Holy Father in Rome presented and read the Bull of Indiction that announced and 'launched' the Jubilee Year 2025.

The Diocesan webpage for the Jubilee Year is:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/>.

Safeguarding - E-Learning

In accordance with the national safeguarding standards, training is mandatory for anyone who holds a role within the parish working with either

- children
- adults at risk or those who might otherwise be vulnerable.

Training must be refreshed every 2 years.

If your training is not up to date, please register for either face-to-face or on-line training at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/safeguarding/training/>

or scan the QR-code.

Attendees will receive certificates on completion of their training to support continuing ministry.



Caritas Portsmouth

Caritas Portsmouth is hosting Sue Carter from the Alzheimer's Society, to run a Dementia Friends Information Session for anyone interested in hosting a Dementia Café, looking to make their parish more Dementia Friendly or just want to know more to support people in their family or community. The session will be held online on **Tuesday 21st May at 7pm**. Please register in advance [here](#).

For more information please contact us at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or visit <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>



STELLA MARIS – RING OF PRAYER

STELLA MARIS

(6th to 10th May)

Dear Parishioners, we have been invited, as a joint Parish, by Stella Maris to take on one week of a 50-week Ring of Prayer around the UK. This is in support of Seafarers, Fishers, SM Chaplains and the Ocean Environment

Stella Maris Rosary Prayer will take place before weekday Masses, at all three of our Churches, starting 09:30am. We are further encouraged to pray as families, at home, on each of the days allocated to us, using specific prayers for each day. This is a beautiful way to support Stella Maris and introduce our children to Rosary Prayer, and the joy of praying for others.

Full details of the prayers for each day can be found on this website:

<https://sailingpilgrimages.co.uk/ring-of-prayer/>

Contact Russ Fairman for more information:

- Email: russ.fairman@gmail.com
- Mobile: +44 (0) 7985 433953

Sunday's Readings:

Daily Readings

<https://universalis.com/europe.England/20240505/mass.htm>

Reflections

<http://www.mycatholic.com/>

Diocesan eNews

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

UK Catholic Newspapers

<https://www.churchpaper.co.uk>

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

View vacancies at:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers>