

THE MESSENGER

Serving the Parish of Our Lady and The Saints of Guernsey

PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH NO. 1199568 - GUERNSEY REGISTERED CHARITY CH263



Diocese of Portsmouth

Bishop Philip Egan

Eighth Bishop of Portsmouth

Dean and Parish Priest:

Fr Marcin Drabik

Email: mdrabik@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Assistant Priests:

Fr Benedict Ndikum (Day off Friday)

Alderney

Priest in Charge: Fr Paul Dzwig

Presbytery: 01481 822105

Priest in Retirement:

Canon Gerard Hetherington KCHS

Deacon: Rev Mark Leightley

St Joseph & St Mary (St. J)

La Couperderie, St Peter Port

Notre Dame du Rosaire (ND)

Burnt Lane, St Peter Port

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Delancey (OLSS)

Rue des Monts, St Sampson

Le Platon Home (LP)

Clifton, St Peter Port, Guernsey

Parish Office: CLOSED WEDNESDAYS

Open Hours 9.30am - 1.30pm weekdays

Amphill House, Cordier Hill, St Peter Port,
Guernsey GY1 1JH

Phone Number: 01481 720196

Email: office@catholic.org.gg

Website: www.catholic.org.gg

Secretary: Mrs Yvonne Prialux

Assistant Secretary: Miss Dionne-Maire Black

Parish Safeguarding Ministers:

Bridget Cowens: 07781 467591

Ali Gregory: 07781 134311

Youth Minister:

Tom Saddington: 07781 129310

Email: youth@catholic.org.gg

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday:

St Joseph 10.30am -11.00am

Our Lady Star of the Sea 5.30pm -5.50pm

Sunday:

Notre Dame Church 5.30pm-5.50pm

Or by appointment

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Name: CDP Guernsey

Sorting Code: 309304

Account number: 00879070

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: REMEMBER YOUR COMPASSION, O LORD.

Sat 26th

St. J

10.00am

Mass: Private Intentions

St. J

10.30am

Rosary

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

OLSS

6.00pm

Mass: Holy Souls

Sun 27th Sept

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WEEK 2)

St. J

8.00am

Mass: Maria Santos & All family in Purgatory

OLSS

9.15am

Mass: People of the Parish

St. J

10.30am

Mass: For Vocations

ND

5.30pm

Rosary

ND

6.00pm

Mass: Henri & Helene Guilmoto RIP (FM)

Mon 28th

St. J

7.30am

Mass: William Norman RIP

St. J

10.00am

Requiem Mass: Patricia Hands

OLSS

11.30am

Rosary

OLSS

12noon

Mass: Bernadette Guillou RIP

Tues 29th

THE HOLY ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, FEAST

St. J

9.30am

Mass: Michel Bodin RIP

Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am

OLSS

11.00am

St Mary & St Michael Whole School Mass

Mass Intention: Teachers, Students & Staff

Wed 30th

ST JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL

St. J

9.30am

Mass: Tony Baldry

OLSS

11.00am

Funeral Mass: Ann Sumner

St. J

6.30pm

Mass: Birthday - Emmanuel Eugene

St. J

7.00pm

Exposition, Rosary & Benediction for Vocations

Thur 1st Oct

ST TERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS, RELIGIOUS DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL

St. J

9.30am

Mass: Cynthia & Christopher Cormack

In Thanksgiving

Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am

BLC

9.30am

Primary School Mass

Mass Intention: Students, teachers & Staff

OLSS

6.00pm

Mass: Holy Souls

Fri 2nd

THE HOLY GAURDIAN, ANGELS, MEMORIAL

St. J

7.30am

Mass: Sister Teresa

LP

11.00am

Mass: Birthday blessings for Kallen & Dior

St. J

6.00pm

Confirmation mass

CFP

7.30pm

Rosary

Sat 3rd

St. J

10.00am

Mass: In Thanksgiving

St. J

10.30am

Rosary

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

OLSS

6.00pm

Mass: Wilfred & Christopher Cochrane RIP

Sun 4th Oct

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WEEK 3)

St. J

8.00am

Mass: Cynthia & Christopher Cormack

In Thanksgiving

OLSS

9.15am

Mass: People of the Parish

St. J

10.30am

Mass: Clive Heaume RIP

ND

5.30pm

Rosary

ND

6.00pm

Mass: Rev Auguste Boone RIP (FM)

FM - Foundation Mass LP - Le Platon CFP - Centre for Peace BLC—Blanchelande College

Please keep all the Confirmation Candidates in your prayers

Ana- Francisca, Andrea, Bianca

Cara, Charlotte, Cory, Daisy, Dinis, Edouard, Ella, Emily

Fergal, Finn, Genevieve, Henry, Henry, Isaac, Isabella, Isabella

Jennifer, Leandro, Leanna, Louis, Luana, Mason, Maximillian, Molly, Mya, Rollo,

Tallulah, Taylor, Tomás, Tristan, Viviana and Yara

CONFIRMATION MASS

St. Joseph's Church - Friday 2nd October - 6pm

WELCOME

A warm welcome to everybody, please do join us for Tea & Coffee after the **8.00am & 10.30am mass in St Joseph's and after 9.15am Mass at OLSS.**

ROSARY

For the beatification of Edel Quinn (Legion of Mary) will take place at 2.30pm in St Joseph's parish room on Sunday 27th September

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

21st Sept - 4th October

We have been officially recognised as a Fairtrade parish and during November we plan to hold a sale of fairtrade goods. **(Date to be confirmed).** In the meantime please do look out for items during your weekly shop which show the Fairtrade Logo.



HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will be hosting an evening of ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT on MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28th from 7.30-8.30pm in the Parish room at St Joseph's. Tea and coffee is available from 7pm. There will be some hymns followed by silent 'Adoration'. Prayer ministry will also be available. If you need prayer for anything at all, this is an opportunity to come and receive prayer. **EVERYONE** is welcome, either for the whole evening or for part of the time

FORMATION DAY FOR READERS: 17th October 2026

It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team on 17th October 2026 at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.

DIARY DATE

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Meeting on Saturday 10th October at 2pm in St. Josephs church.

PASTORAL LETTER - THINGS VISIBLE & INVISIBLE

Bishop Philip's letter will be read out this weekend at all masses. Copies will be available in the Church Porch and on the Website from Sunday.

UCM Evening Rosary Reflection

**Tuesday October 13th 7pm
in the Parish Room**

Deacon Mark will be leading an evening reflection on the 5th Joyful Mystery of the Rosary

'The Finding of Jesus in the Temple'

Through praying the five decades of the rosary we will journey deeply into this mystery and how it affects our own spirituality.

**All Ladies of the Parish
Are Most Welcome**



Blanchelande College

CATERING ASSISTANT

Fixed Term Contract; part time (10.30am-1.30pm) – term time only
We are seeking to recruit a Catering Assistant to support the preparation and serving of nutritionally balanced lunches for students.

MINIBUS DRIVER

Part time; ad-hoc – term time only
The Minibus Driver will be responsible for driving the College minibus as and when required. D1 Licence required.

Deadline for applications: Wednesday 7th October 2026

For further details of these roles and how to apply, please contact

Mrs Tracy Feehan, the Principal's PA:

Tel 237200 Email recruitment@blanchelande.sch.gg

St. Appoline's Pilgrimage 12th September 2026

The annual pilgrimage from St. May's Priory on Lihou to St. Appoline's Chapel was a great success. Over 40 pilgrims from a range of island churches participated to reflect on the Season of Creation. Fr. Joe Thompson of St. Stephen's Church took care of the opening and closing services. The Very Rev'd Matthew Trick, Guernsey's new Anglican Dean and his family took part as did Angela Gaudion and a group her Blanchelande students. Fr. Marcin waved us off and once he has settled in Guernsey will fit next year's pilgrimage into his schedule. A big thank you to Ann and Eamonn Finnerty, Shelley Greenfield and the Catenians for their help and also thanks to the United Reformed Church for the use of their hall for refreshments following the pilgrimage. 2026 was the biggest yet; thank you to all involved. We look forward to 2027.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Le Platon Home & all in residential & Nursing Care
All who are Sick and housebound in the parish

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

David Banton and all those whose anniversaries occur around now. **May they Rest in Peace.+**

OFFERTORY: £3785.00 (Inc standing orders and donations through the website and Dona card machines)

Home Missions second collection : £678.00

Attendance numbers: 576

Next weekend's second collection is for CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Collection on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th October This year CAFOD is focusing on the effects of drought and water shortages on children's lives. Children like 12-year-old Tayla from northern Zimbabwe, where drought has left communities struggling with food and water shortages. After fetching water before school each morning, Tayla often arrived hungry and tired. Without enough food or water, she struggled to concentrate in class and worried about falling behind with her studies. But thanks to the generosity of parishes like ours, our local Caritas partners worked with Tayla's school and community to build a solar-powered water system. Now the school has safe water for drinking and for growing vegetables, meaning they can provide nutritious meals to the children all year round, helping them to stay in education and develop their God-given talents. Our parish's support this Family Fast Day will help more children like Tayla stay in school and achieve their dreams. Please give as generously as you always do and keep the work of CAFOD in your prayers. Go online at **CAFOD.org.uk** to see more of the work done to improve the lives of our global neighbours. **Thank you for your continued generosity!**

Our Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ, my Friends, Our Dear Parishioners and warmly welcomed visitors,

As I look back on this past week, my heart is overflowing with gratitude — for so many meetings, so many kind hearts, and so much love shared in our Parish Family. I have so many people and blessings I long to thank properly, but space is short in our newsletter and this message today! Please forgive me — I will share a full thanksgiving next week. There is so much to be grateful for, and every single one of you matters deeply to me.

Last Tuesday, I had the joy of celebrating Mass at the start of term for our senior students at Blanchelande Catholic College. It was truly wonderful to see so many young people gathered — and what moved me most was their reverence. Their respect for the Holy Eucharist, their awareness of the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ — it was beautiful to witness. My hand was truly tired afterwards — not from weariness, but from the privilege of blessing each one of our seniors personally and distributing Holy Communion to them. May the Lord bless them, guide them, and keep them close to His heart in the years ahead.

Last Thursday was a special day — the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham for us here in England, and also the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy (Our Lady of Ransom) — the great feast of our beloved Sisters. I think sometimes in the busyness of our own celebrations, we can almost forget — and yet there they are, faithful as ever, praying for us, loving us, serving our Parish through the decades with quiet, generous hearts. To our dear Sisters: thank You. Thank You for your lives, your witness, your prayers. You are a treasure we hold dear, and we love You and appreciate You more than we can say. It is never too late to send them a note, a prayer, or a simple word of gratitude — I know it would mean the world to them.

When I was ordained, someone told me something that has stayed with me ever since. There is a convent of cloistered Benedictine Sisters in Kraków, Poland — and each of their sisters is dedicated to praying for a particular priest throughout his life. I was told that one of these holy sisters had been assigned to pray for me — that I might remain faithful, that I might always keep my eyes fixed on Jesus Christ — true God and true Man — and that I might never lose my way. Some time later, I was taken to meet her. I stood behind the grille — behind the curtains — and I never saw her face. But I could hear her voice. I simply said to her: "Thank you — thank you for your dedication, for your prayer, for supporting someone you have never known." And though I never saw her, and I may never know if she is still alive today, I know this: I have always carried the certainty that her prayers stand behind me in everything I do. I share this story only because it reminds me so much of our own Sisters here. Many of us walk past their doors and do not truly know what happens within. But behind those doors, day after day, they are praying — for our Parish, for our work, for our ministries, for those who are sick, lonely, or in pain, and for all of us who serve here. They are our quiet, faithful prayerful backup — unseen, but holding us all close to the Heart of God. Let us never, ever take them for granted. Theirs is a hidden life — but it bears fruit that lasts for eternity. Dear Friends, together with Father Benedict, we are so happy to invite You into this beautiful new month of October, which we'll approach this week — dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Whenever Our Lady has appeared throughout the world — in Lourdes, Fatima, and every place approved by the Church — she always asks us the same thing: *"Pray the Rosary."* This October, we want to respond to her request in a very special way. Beginning this Thursday, 1st of October, we will pray the Holy Rosary before every Mass in our Parish. This is not something we have simply created — it is warmly encouraged by the Church herself:

1. General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) — 37 "It is praiseworthy to take part in the public recitation of the Most Holy Rosary... It is also an excellent practice to begin with it the celebration of the liturgical hours, and to prepare in this way for the celebration of the Mass itself." This is the most authoritative source — it explicitly states the Rosary is an excellent way to prepare for Mass.

2. Pope St John Paul II — Rosarium Virginis Mariae (Apostolic Letter, 2002) - *"The Rosary, in its own way, is a preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist and a reflection of its mystery."* He also wrote: *"How precious the custom of praying the Rosary before the celebration of Mass! In this way, the faithful are led into the mystery of Christ, so that they may enter more deeply into the celebration of the Eucharist."*

3. Congregation for Divine Worship — Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy (2001) — 196 *"The Rosary is a most excellent prayer with which the faithful may prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the Eucharist... It leads the faithful to contemplate the mysteries of Christ, and thus disposes their hearts to receive the Lord."*

4. Pope Paul VI — Marialis Cultus (Apostolic Exhortation, 1974) — 42 *"The Rosary is of great help in preparing the faithful for the worthy celebration of the liturgy...It is a prayer that always leads to Christ, and hence disposes the soul for the encounter with Him in the Eucharist."*

5. Pope Benedict XVI — Sacramentum Caritatis (Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, 2007) — 96 *"The Rosary admirably prepares the faithful for the reception of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, for in it we contemplate the face of Christ in company with Mary."* Pope Leo XIV has given us a special intention for this month: *"We pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illness."* In a very special way, therefore, the reflections for the Rosary before our Saturday and Sunday Masses will be centred on this intention — lifting up all who struggle with mental health, breaking the silence, and praying that our parish may always be a place of welcome, compassion, and understanding for everyone.

How It Will Work: We will have short reflections for each mystery — and we are deeply grateful to anyone who would like to volunteer to lead them! The microphone and printed reflections will be ready for You, and the leader can pass the book along to the next person. It is simple, prayerful, and deeply meaningful.

Special Schedule — This Opening Week : **Thursday 1 Oct** Saint Thérèse of Lisieux — the Little Flower, whose relics visited Guernsey not long ago! **Friday 2 Oct** The Holy Guardian Angels — our unseen companions and protectors ; **Saturday 3 Oct** Pope's Intention for Mental Health — prayers to overcome stigma and discrimination

Sunday 4 Oct Pope's Intention for Mental Health — prayers for healing, compassion, and hope

A Few Kind Requests: • Please arrive a little earlier so we can begin together and pray reverently before the Mass starts; • See this time as a gift — to yourself, to your family, and to Our Lady; • Our homilies throughout October will include the power of the Holy Rosary — so there will be more to learn and love about this prayer our Mother loves so much. We look forward to praying with You —throughout this beautiful month.

With our love, our prayers, and our gratitude. *Fr Marcín & Fr Benedict*

OCTOBER, THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY (message from Fr Benedict)

The term ‘**Rosary**’ comes from the Latin *rosarium* that alternately implies a rose garden, a bed of roses, a garland of flowers, and a collection of nice quotes. So, when we pray the Rosary, we are giving beautiful flowers to Mary and to God. The Rosary is a string of beads or a knotted cord used to count prayers. The term is also applied to the prayers themselves. Rosaries are used in many religions but most often associated with Roman Catholics in a unique and outstanding way. In Roman Catholic practice, the Rosary is a string of beads made in the form of a circle, with a pendant crucifix. The standard Marian Rosary consists of five sets of beads called **decades**, each composed of one large and ten smaller beads. On the large beads, the Lord's Prayer (Our Father), is said; on the smaller beads, the Hail Mary, or Ave Maria. In between the decades the “Glory be,” a doxology, is recited. As the prayers are said, the person reciting the Rosary may meditate on a series of New Testament events, called the “Mysteries” of the Rosary, from the lives of Christ and His Mother, Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary are virtually a summary of the church's liturgical year. Before Pope St. John Paul II added the Luminous Mysteries, it was traditionally believed that the 15 Mysteries (150 Hail Marys) were the summary of the 150 psalms for Christians who could not read and write.

Traditionally, the rosary was ascribed to the Spanish theologian St. Dominic early in the 13th century. The Rosary dates to a revelation in a vision by Our Lady to this saint who is the founder of the Order of Preachers. St. Dominic had been praying on finding ways to combat the Albigensian Heresy and the Rosary was given him in a vision by the Blessed Virgin Mary as a weapon against that heresy. Other heresies have equally been defeated with this same tool. The Rosary was popularized by Alan de la Roche while Pope Leo X accorded the month of October the month of the Rosary.

As early as 2nd C, the struggle against Satan was already ascribed to Mary (cf. Rev. 12:1-17, Gen 3:15, Rom 5:1-6:1ff, 1Cor. 15:20-21, 54-57). Mary is the terror of demons – she will crush the head of any of our enemies. It was on 7 October 1571 that the great naval battle of Lepanto was fought, the victory of Christian Europe saved Christian civilization against the invading Muslim Turks. It was to gratefully commemorate Mary's role in this victory (for the soldiers often prayed the Rosary before going to fight) that Pope St. Pius V instituted the Feast of Our Lady of Victory on this day. Later popes, in keeping with the fact that victory was basically the fruit of the Rosary, termed it the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The feast was officially and permanently placed on the liturgical calendar of the universal church in 1716 – when Pope Eugene won another important victory over the same enemy in Hungary still with the greatest tool, The Rosary.

On 13 May 1917, in the third year of WWI which was to cost eight million lives, important events were taking place simultaneously. The Mother of God Herself deigned to appear in the first six apparitions to three children to make through to them one final appeal to our materialistic, war-torn world. “In a spirit of sacrifice to our Lord, are you willing to accept everything He may send you as reparation for the sins by which His Majesty is offended, as a means for converting all sinners, and as atonement for the blasphemies offered to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?” a simple “yes” being the reply, she urged: “Then pray the Rosary often and devoutly, for the peace of the world!” “Recite the Rosary daily, and after the Gloria Patri of each decade add: *O my Jesus, forgive us our sins! Save us from the fires of hell! Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who most need thy mercy!*”

A community like ours, needs to uphold Mary's Queenly role whereby she carries our prayers to Jesus, our Lord and King, absorbing them into her own and leaving aside whatever may be unworthy. This is one of the best Marian devotions. With Mary as listener, we develop the art of praising the Triune God. The Rosary is a perfect form of prayerful tribute to the Trinity, commencing as it does with the recitation to the Apostles' Creed and the others. The Rosary possesses great power to enlighten and sanctify those who pray it, having a special efficacy of intercession. It is the best means of perfection for it helps us reflect and copy the lives of our models (as we pray in the “Let us Pray” after the “Hail Holy Queen,” ...that we may both imitate what it contains and obtain what it promises), it is the wealth of sanctification, sublime prayer, means of salvation, the best weapon against the greatest enemy, it is used for transforming any group, contemplating Jesus with Mary, etc. The ‘Hail Holy Queen’ acknowledges Mary's ongoing role in our salvation as only next to that of Jesus. Let priests, religious, fathers, mothers and children pray the Rosary in season and out of season for whatever thing one has to do and it will be successful. **A very big warning: Do not try to dissuade or discourage others from preaching, praying or sharing the Rosary because by so doing, you become an enemy of souls. Don't try to discourage/fight it, please.**

When we pray the Rosary attentively with a lot of devotion, perseverance, penance and remorse for our sins, fighting distractions, with purity of intention, etc, the following effects, blessings or benefits are received: sinners are forgiven, souls that thirst are refreshed, those under satanic attacks and possessions are freed from their bonds, those who weep find happiness, those who are tempted overcome the temptations, the poor find help, religious are reformed, ignorant are instructed, the living learn how to overcome pride, the dead (the Holy Souls) have their pains eased, people gain plenary indulgence particularly at the hour of death, some sicknesses are healed, etc. Try it and share the results with others! Mary needs you to propagate her devotion. “*I have never yet found a man who was not converted, if previously I had time to pray the Rosary*” (St Clement). “*Never will anyone who prays his Rosary everyday be led astray. This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood*” (St. Louis de Monfort).

Read: *The Secret of the Rosary* by St. Louis De Montfort, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* by Pope John Paul II.

The Hail Mary

Biblical Sources, Part by Part



1
Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

 Luke 1:28 — NABRE:
“Hail, favored one!
The Lord is with you.”



2
Blessed art thou
among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

 Luke 1:42 — NABRE:
“Most blessed are you
among women, and blessed
is the fruit of your womb.”



3
Holy Mary,
Mother of God.

 Luke 1:43 — NABRE:
“And how does this happen
to me, that the mother of my
Lord should come to me?”

*The Church's title “Mother of God”
expresses that Jesus Christ, whom
Mary bore, is truly God and truly man.*



4
Pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour
of our death.

 Church Tradition —
a petition for Mary's intercession.

 Supporting Scripture:
1 Timothy 2:1; James 5:16;
Revelation 5:8.
(These verses do not contain
the Hail Mary wording.)