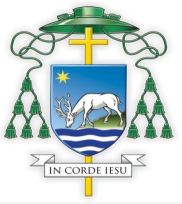


THE MESSENGER

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 Priaux

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:

Friday: After 7.30am Mass

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4TH OCTOBER 2026

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

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)

Mon 5th

St. J

7.30am

Mass: Auguste Tardivel & Parents

& Brothers (FM)

OLSS

11.30am

Rosary

OLSS

12noon

Mass: Renouf Foundation (FM)

Tues 6th

St. J

9.30am

Mass: Margarida Silva RIP &

All family in Purgatory

Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am

Wed 7th

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, MEMORIAL

St. J

9.30am

Notre Dame School Mass (All Welcome)

Mass Intention: Ian Tardivel & Family (FM)

St. J

6.30pm

Mass: Seymour M H Le Marchant RIP (FM)

St. J

7.00pm

Exposition, Rosary & Benediction for Vocations

Thur 8th

St. J

9.30am

Mass: Mary Anne Hickey RIP (FM)

Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am

OLSS

6.00pm

Mass: Patrick & Anne Le Tocq in Thanksgiving

Fri 9th

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, RELIGIOUS DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, FEAST

St. J

7.30am

Mass: Paula Gaudion & Family (FM)

LP

11.00am

Mass: Joan Alliss & Cindy GE (FM)

CFP

7.30pm

Rosary

Sat 10th

OUR LADY ON SATURDAY

St. J

10.00am

Mass: Jerry Baguio

St. J

10.30am

Rosary

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

OLSS

6.00pm

Mass: People of the Parish

Sun 11th Oct

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WEEK 4)

St. J

8.00am

Mass: Thanksgiving Baguio Family

OLSS

9.15am

Mass: Fathers Ilsley & Hazlewood RIP

St. J

10.30am

Mass: Jean Savage RIP

ND

5.30pm

Rosary

ND

6.00pm

Mass: Dec'd Members Catenian Circle GSY

FM - Foundation Mass LP - Le Platon CFP - Centre for Peace

UCM Evening Rosary Reflection

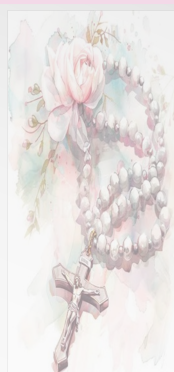
Tuesday October 13th 7pm in the Parish Room

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



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to
Cynthia & Christopher Cormack
Keeping you both in our Prayers

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**.

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

The Holy Spirit charismatic Prayer Group will be meeting on Monday October 5th from 7.30pm – 8.30pm in the Parish room at St Joseph's. Tea and coffee available from 7pm. Everyone is welcome! For more information contact Frank on 07781 108394

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation preparation starts in January for young people in **Year 8 and above** who would like to be confirmed in 2028, or don't necessarily want to be confirmed but just want to explore more about their faith. Contact Tom: youth@catholic.org.gg 07781 129310

VACANCY FOR ASSOCIATE SCHOOL GOVERNOR

We are inviting applications from practising Catholics to join the Education Governance Board for St Mary & St Michael Catholic Primary School. This offers a great opportunity for any parishioner to contribute to the life of our Parish and especially to invest in its future through the children in our school. You will be required to attend one Governance Board meeting per term (usually held late afternoon), training provided by the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture and you will be invited to visit the school regularly to get to know the children, their families and the staff. If you are interested, **please contact Elizabeth Dene**, Chair of Governors for the Voluntary (Catholic) Schools Cluster (edene@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). Further information about the role can be found on the [Education Governance website](#).

MESSAGE - FROM BISHOP PHILIP EGAN

Welcome. I invite you to complete a short, anonymous questionnaire about our Holy Habits and the diocesan plan. By sharing your experience, you will be actively contributing to the growth and development of the Diocese and helping me discern how the Lord is at work. It will take only a few minutes. Thank you in advance.

We hope to repeat the survey in three years' time to view the journey made

Please scan the QR code or visit: eu.surveymonkey.com/r/QTBWYRP



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

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

The Annual Parish Service of Healing and Blessing

will be held at Our Lady Star of the Sea on Saturday 24th October at 2.30 pm.

Invitations will go out shortly. Everyone is welcome. Simple refreshments afterwards in the Alzheimer's Centre.

Parish Christmas Lunch

Les Rocquettes Hotel - 12.30pm - Sunday 6th December 2026
Menus to follow next weekend.



News from our Catholic Primary Schools

St Mary & St Michael celebrated its school feast day on the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, the Archangels last Tuesday.

The children led a wonderful Mass with Fr Marcin and spent time reflecting on their patron

saint-St Michael. Each child received a prayer card to take home and, as a feast day treat, a Fairtrade chocolate bar.

This was a lovely way to bring together our celebrations and the children's learning during Fairtrade Fortnight. October is the month of the Rosary, and at Notre Dame du Rosaire we are looking forward to celebrating the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, our patron, on 7th October. Children at both Notre Dame and St Mary & St Michael will be praying the Rosary throughout the month and taking time to reflect on Mary's example.

Every three years, Notre Dame pupils create a calendar featuring the children's beautiful artwork of Our Lady, with every class creating one picture. We are delighted to share a few of their images with you here. This year's calendar will be on sale by the end of October for everyone to buy. It will make a lovely Christmas gift and is a wonderful way to support the school. We will share details of how to order one in the coming weeks. There is much to celebrate in our two Catholic primary schools, and we are grateful for the parish's continued prayers and support.

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

Pat Gaudion (Alderney) and all those whose anniversaries occur around now. **May they Rest in Peace.+**

OFFERTORY: £3554.00 (Inc standing orders and donations through the website and Dona card machines)

Attendance numbers: 575

This weekend's second collection is for CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

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,

First, my sincere apologies — I know last week's newsletter was difficult to read with the font far too small! Please bear with me; we are working to sort this out, and I hope within just a few weeks everything will be perfectly clear and easy on the eyes. My heart is so full of things I long to share with You all — sometimes it feels like I have more love and news than I have room to print! Thank You for your patience and kindness.

As I look back on this past week, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. Every meeting, every conversation, every cup of tea or coffee shared — each moment has been such a gift. I feel our relationships growing deeper and richer with every passing day. Thank You for welcoming me, for opening your hearts, and for making this Parish feel like home — not just to me, but to all of us together. You have shown me that this Parish isn't just a building — it truly is our family. Thank You for every minute spent in care and love for our beautiful community.

And especially now, as we celebrate this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and honour the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi — that great lover of God's creation — I want to say a heartfelt thank You for our beautiful Mass for the care of creation, previous week. It was truly an inspiring, uplifting, and deeply meaningful celebration — from our reverent prayers to the thoughtfully chosen and beautiful hymns, to the warm fellowship we shared afterwards over coffee and tea. It filled my heart with joy to see so many gathered together, asking God to guide us, to show us how we can better cherish our common home, and how we can walk more gently upon this earth.

A special word of deepest gratitude to our wonderful Laudato Si' group — your dedication, your passion, and your faithful work are such a gift to our Parish. You lead the way reminding us all that caring for creation is not just a good idea — it is our sacred duty, entrusted to us by God Himself. Thank You.

To all those who have written to me — thank You so much for your kind words, your prayers, and your thoughts. Please be patient with me just a little longer. I have set aside this coming Tuesday especially to go through every letter and message, and I will reply to each one of You personally. Your words mean a great deal to me — thank You for waiting.

Last Sunday, I was deeply honoured to join the Remembrance Service in the cemetery, commemorating the souls of HMS Charybdis and HMS Limbourne. Standing there among so many distinguished guests, and especially alongside those brave survivors who are still with us, I felt such profound respect and gratitude. It was a solemn, moving, and truly beautiful act of remembrance — one I will not forget.

It was also a privilege to attend the beautiful and solemn installation of the new Anglican Dean of Guernsey, Reverend Matthew Trick. It was a truly dignified service, and it filled me with hope — for very soon, I look forward to welcoming you to my own Installation as the Parish Priest and Catholic Dean of Guernsey. Further details will follow very soon — I look forward to celebrating this special day with all of you. 🙏

A heartfelt thank You to all of You who have so warmly welcomed our way of praying the Holy Rosary before every Mass throughout this beautiful month of October. It has been such a grace-filled beginning! I also want to gently reassure anyone who may feel uncertain or concerned: please do not feel pressured in any way. These are beautiful opportunities we are offering — never obligations. They represent extra time, extra preparation, and extra commitment from us, your priests — not from You. You are very welcome to join us if You wish, or simply come to Mass at your usual time. Nothing is being taken away or changed — these are simply additional ways we hope to serve and nourish our Parish family.

With this in mind, I am also pleased to offer another opportunity: beginning this month, the Sacrament of Confession will be available every Friday after morning Mass. I will be in the confessional, ready and waiting — whether You come regularly or haven't been in a while. This will be especially helpful for those who honour the devotion to The Sacred Heart of Jesus of the First Fridays of the Month. Again — this is simply a gift we are happy to offer. You are welcome to come, or simply continue as You are. No pressure at all — only love and service.

Attached to this month's newsletter, you will find a small but precious gift: a pocket guide to the Holy Rosary. It is small enough to slip into a pocket, a handbag, or keep in your car — so that wherever You are — on the bus, the ferry, sitting quietly in nature, or waiting for a moment — You can always have it close at hand. It is a gentle companion both for those who pray the Rosary every day, and for those who are just beginning this beautiful journey. Please — do not throw it away. If You are not yet ready to use it yourself, simply leave it in the church porch — I am certain someone else will be deeply grateful to receive it. Or perhaps pass it along to a friend or family member. Sometimes we do not need to fully understand something to appreciate its beauty — or to share it with someone who needs it. I remember a story shared with me many years ago, during a pilgrimage to Lourdes. An English chaplain there told me that one day a priest came to him and said: *"I don't really like the Rosary. I find it difficult to pray. I don't understand it."* And the chaplain asked him gently: *"Do you love your mum?"* *"Oh yes, very much,"* the

priest replied. *"I tell her I love her often — she is so precious to me."* The chaplain smiled and said: *"Then imagine this — the Rosary is simply saying to our Mother Mary, fifty-three times and more each time we pray it: 'Mother, I love you. Thank you for being our Mum.' And she takes every word, and places it in the heart of her beloved Son, Jesus."* That is all the Rosary is — a conversation of love with our Heavenly Mother. May this little leaflet help all of us speak those words a little more often.

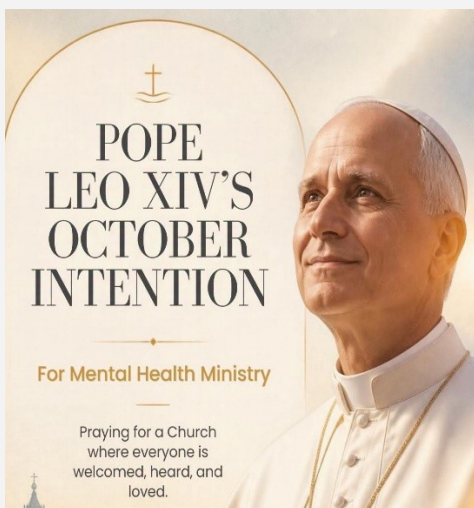
It was such a privilege to meet with our First Communion Catechist Team, led so wonderfully by our dear Mrs Mary Robertshaw, Head Teacher of our Catholic Primary Schools. I cannot find words enough to thank You — your dedication, your sacrifice, and your loving care for our children and their families is simply extraordinary. You walk with them, guide them, and lead them ever closer to the heart of Christ. Thank you for giving of yourselves so generously. And the beautiful fruits of that meeting are already visible — we are delighted to announce that applications are now open for this year's programme of preparation for First Holy Confession and First Holy Communion. More details on how to apply will follow — do keep this beautiful journey of faith in your prayers.

Now, I would like to start my thought with a wonderful old tale about a monastery where the abbot noticed that the brothers were always coming to him with concerns. One day he gathered them and said: *"In our monastery, we have two boxes. One is called 'HEAVEN' and one is called 'EARTH.' If something troubles you, come to me face to face, speak it openly and honestly — that goes into the box called HEAVEN, for it is spoken with courage and love. But if you speak it behind someone's back — that goes into the box called EARTH, for it bears no fruit."* The abbot smiled and added: *"And you know what? After all these years, the HEAVEN box is almost always empty... but whenever it is full, wonderful changes happen in our community. The EARTH box is sometimes full too — but nothing good ever grows there."*

So, my Dear Friends, let me share something very honestly with You. Since arriving in Guernsey, I was told: *"Oh, people here like to complain!"* And I smiled, because I have learned one thing — people everywhere care deeply about the things they love, and sometimes that caring comes out as a concern or a wish for something different. That is not unique to Guernsey — that is what it means to be part of a family! Here is how I see it: If You come to me, look at my eyes, and speak honestly — that is NOT a complaint. That is a GIFT. It is advice from someone who cares enough to speak up. It shows You love our Parish and want the very best for it. I may not always be able fulfil a request, but I will always treasure your honesty and your courage. That builds up our family.

But when words are spoken behind my back and find their way to me through others — that is what I call a real complaint. I acknowledge it, I hear it, but I cannot truly respect it, because it lacks the honesty and courage that true love requires. It does not build bridges — it builds walls. So please — even if You think I look too serious sometimes, or perhaps You're not quite sure what to expect — come and find me. Knock on the door. Send a message. Speak to me face to face. I promise You: I am always delighted to listen, to learn, and to walk this path together with You. That is how we grow — side by side, not at a distance.

With our love, our prayers, and our gratitude. Fr Marcin



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY – Wed 7 October

MORNING – 9:00 AM - St Joseph & St Mary's Church, St Peter Port
The Joyful Mysteries led by the children of Notre Dame du Rosaire Catholic School

MIDDAY – 12:00 PM - St Joseph & St Mary's Church, St Peter Port
The Luminous Mysteries led by the Legion of Mary

AFTERNOON – 3:00 PM - St Joseph & St Mary's Church, St Peter Port
The Sorrowful Mysteries led by the Holy Spirit Prayer Group

EVENING - 7:00 PM at St Joseph & St Mary's Church, St Peter Port
The Glorious Mysteries during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

All twenty mysteries of the Holy Rosary — prayed in one day.

**Come for one, come for all — every Hail Mary brings us closer
to Jesus through Mary**