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
Ampthill 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 Priaulx
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

Go out to the whole world, and proclaim the good news to all creation"
Mark 16:15

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
11TH OCTOBER 2026
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: IN THE LORD'S OWN HOUSE, SHALL I DWELL FOR LENGTH OF DAYS UNENDING

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
Mon 12th	**St. J**	7.30am	Mass: St Carlo Acutis in thanks for grace received
	OLSS	11.30am	**Rosary**
	OLSS	12noon	Mass: Holy Souls
Tues 13th	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass: Private Intentions
	Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am		
Wed 14th	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass: Winnie Collenette RIP (FM)
	St. J	6.30pm	Mass: Holy Souls
	St. J	7.00pm	*Exposition, Rosary & Benediction for Vocations*
Thur 15th	**ST TERESA OF AVILA, FOUNDRESS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL**		
	St. J	9.30am	Mass: Joseite Schueller & Fred Hitchon RIP
	Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: In loving memory of all children lost through miscarriage, stillbirth or early infancy– and for all the parents & families who carry them in their hearts.
Fri 16th	**St. J**	7.30am	Mass: Ernie Breban RIP
	LP	11.00am	Mass: Peter Wilson RIP
	CFP	7.30pm	**Rosary**
Sat 17th	**ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR, MEMORIAL**		
	St. J	10.00am	Mass: Decima White RIP (FM)
	St. J	10.30am	**Rosary**
	OLSS	12.30pm	**Wedding:** Simon Florance & Sharnna Bunyan
	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Louise McKenna RIP
Sun 18th Oct	**TWENTY- NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WEEK 1)**		
	St. J	8.00am	Mass: Tia Maria Tu Agostinho, João Manuel RIP
	OLSS	9.15am	Mass: People of the Parish
	St. J	10.30am	Mass: Carol Tersigni RIP †
	ND	5.30pm	**Rosary**
	ND	6.00pm	Mass: Rev Auguste Boone RIP (FM)

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

I want to encourage you to recommit yourself to keeping the Six Holy Habits: Sixth, to join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship. — Bishop Philip

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

The Holy Spirit charismatic Prayer Group will be meeting on Monday October 12th 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

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.**

LEGION OF MARY

The legion of Mary meet at 11am every Saturday in the parish rooms. New members are always welcome

FREEDOM CAMP 16-18th October, Rue Maingy, Guernsey

(ONLY A COUPLE OF PLACES LEFT)

This is a camp for younger youth (yr 7-10). We're running it as a partnership between Orbital and South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) and Ollie O'Meakin from SWYM is coming over to help host it. Parents need to book young people on themselves using this link. It will be suitable for all young people, whether they call themselves Christians or not and will be a great place to build friendships, have loads of fun and explore faith together.
Freedom South West Youth Ministries:
https://share.google/QR2TZyafxzYJalmGc

SAVE THE DATE

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.
Everyone is welcome.
Simple refreshments afterwards in the Alzheimer's Centre**.**

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Sunday 6th December

Les Rocquettes Hotel, 12.30pm. We ask that all those attending have there menus handed into the parish office by Sunday 22nd November latest please. A raffle will also take place. Please if anyone can donate a prize it will be very much appreciated, these can be left at the parish office.
Menus will be available in all three churches from this Sunday.

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 **EducationGovernance website.**

FOOD BANK

A big thank you to everyone who so generously donates to the food bank. The need to support those struggling in our community remains great. They are in particular need of orange Squash at present. If you can spare a bottle do leave it in one of the baskets at the back of our churches.

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce the start of our First Holy Communion preparation programme for 2026–2027 in the Parish of Our Lady and the Saints.

There will be some changes to the programme this year, with both children and parents taking an active part in the preparation.

All parents wishing to enrol their child must attend our introductory meeting:

Tuesday 3rd November, 6–7pm at **Notre Dame School Hall, next to St Joseph's Church**

The meeting will be led by Fr Marcin, who will also be leading the First Holy Communion preparation programme.

During the meeting, we will explain the programme, share the dates and outline the commitment involved for children and their families. Registration forms will be completed at the meeting.

The programme will begin on Tuesday 17th November, from 6–7.20pm, for both parents and children. Sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings, following the schedule shared at the introductory meeting.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing this important journey of faith together. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.

With every blessing,
Fr Marcin

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - ST JOSEPH'S

Rota for the period 4th October to 22nd November 2026 is available online. Please do read when it is your turn to serve, if you are unable to do your week on the rota please arrange to swap with someone. Thank you so much.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Le Platon Home & all in residential & Nursing Care
All who are Sick and housebound in the parish
Prison Chaplains in the Diocese**:** Prisoners and their families
For the poor**:** The needy and Hungry of the world

ANNIVERSARIES

Bridget Lemon
and all those whose anniversaries occur around now.
May they Rest In Peace. +

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Janet Carnachan
May She Rest in Peace.+

OFFERTORY: £3994.00 (Inc standing orders and donations through the website and Dona card machines)
Attendance numbers: **621**
Second collection CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: £2224.00

Sunday 11 October – Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday
One in Christ, united in mission' Pope Leo XIV
Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate call **020 7821 9755** (office hours) or visit **missio.org.uk** to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible or scan the **QR code**.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

What a grace-filled season we have shared together. First, I want to pause and give thanks with You for the beautiful Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Queen of the Rosary, which we celebrated on 7 October. What a truly holy and memorable day it was — praying together all twenty mysteries of the Holy Rosary, from morning until evening, in our churches and in our hearts. Thank You to everyone who led, who prayed, who sang, and who opened their hearts to Our Lady — whether here in church or in the quiet of your own home.

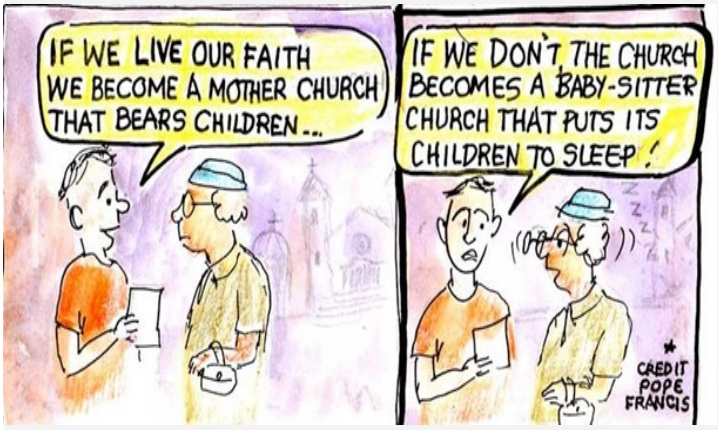
And I wish to come back with our memories to the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated beautify, when Bishop Philip came among us ten days ago. Our Bishop told me how deeply touched he was by our welcome, our preparation, and the warmth of our parish family — so much so that he has already promised to return very soon! And that promise has now taken beautiful shape: he will indeed come back — specifically to install me as your Parish Priest and Dean.

Our hearts are full of gratitude for our thirty-five young people confirmed in the Holy Spirit. May the gifts they received continue to grow within them. Our prayer is that they may always know that our faith, and our deepest friendship with the Lord, is nourished at the Holy Eucharist — the true and real presence of Jesus Christ, the source and summit of our lives. May they always find Him here, waiting for them in the Blessed Sacrament.

A special word of thanks to the parents, grandparents, and godparents of our candidates. You made promises at Baptism — and You have faithfully walked these young people toward this day. Your witness, your prayers, and your love have been their first and most enduring lesson in faith. Thank You for helping them understand that the Holy Eucharist is not just something we do — it is the Bread of Life, necessary for our salvation. And thank You also to each Sponsor — for your guidance, your example, and your promise to walk beside them as they grow closer to Christ. Your dedication is a gift to them. Enormous thanks, too, to everyone who helped prepare this celebration — to Deacon Mark, Tom our Youth Worker, all our faithful Catechists, Father Inna, and Father Benedict. Your love and service have borne beautiful fruit. God bless you all.



There is something gentle yet profound I want to share with You. This coming Thursday, 15 October, is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. It is a day for the babies who were here for a moment, the babies we never got to bring home, the babies who were placed in our arms only to be taken too soon, the babies whose lives were brief, but whose impact was endless. This day, we remember all of them - the positive tests - the ultrasounds -the tiny heartbeats - the empty nurseries - the anniversaries no one else knows about - the grief that never fully leaves. Some losses happened before the world even knew, some happened after names were chosen and dreams were built, some left parents with no pictures, no footprints, and no memories to hold onto except the ones they carry in their hearts. But every single baby mattered. Every single life matters. And every single parent carrying this grief matters too. Many of these journeys of grief are walked in silence — within families, within our own community, perhaps even by someone sitting beside You in the pew. We do not always know the sorrows that others carry — the empty chair, the quiet anniversary, the dream that seemed to fade too soon. Yet these precious lives — however brief their time among us — have left an eternal mark on our world and in our souls. They are loved beyond measure. They are known by name to God. I share this with You from a deeply personal place. Before I was born, my own Mum carried a precious child whom she lost through miscarriage. She told me this only when I was already an adult and a priest — this quiet, sacred sorrow she had carried in her heart for so many years. If that little one had been welcomed into our family first, I would not be here today. And so, in a very real way, every breath I take, every Mass I celebrate, every child I baptise — is also for that little brother or sister I have never met, but whom I will one day hold in the embrace of Christ. I see in every grieving parent the gentle, loving face of my own Mum — her tears, her hope, her quiet faith that one day she would hold her child in the arms of Jesus. Therefore, I will offer the Holy Mass on Thursday evening at 6:00pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church — specifically in loving memory of all children lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infancy — and for all the parents and families who carry them in their hearts. Everyone is warmly welcome. Come, bring your tears, your memories, your hopes — and let us place them all together into the merciful heart of Jesus.



This coming Thursday also brings us the first meeting of our Core Group — the beautiful heart of our parish family. You are the ones who love this parish so deeply that You give your time, your wisdom, and your prayers to help discern the path God is calling us to walk together. You are the dreamers, the builders, the visionaries — not in the sense of grand plans, but in the beautiful sense of caring deeply about what our parish is, what it looks like, and how it can be a true home for all

who seek Christ here. This meeting will take place on Thursday, 15 October. And because we try serve you — and not the other way around — I warmly invite all of You, whether part of the group or not: if there is something on your heart, something You feel needs to be discussed, something You dream for our parish, or a concern You carry — please, send it to me. Your voice matters. Your thoughts are precious. They will be brought to that meeting and held in prayerful consideration. You are not just members of a parish — you are the living stones of this beautiful Church. Let us build it together.

And so, that return visit from Bishop Philip marks the beginning of something new. It is with great joy that I invite you to a solemn moment in the life of our parish — the moment when I formally take up the responsibility of serving You. On Wednesday, 28 October — the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles — at 6:00 PM, at St Joseph and St Mary's Church in St Peter Port, Bishop Philip will preside at the Mass during which I will be formally installed as your Parish Priest and as Catholic Dean of Guernsey. ***What does this mean?*** Installation is not a ceremony of honour for me. It is a covenant between us. Before God, before the Bishop, and before You — I will make an oath and a solemn profession of faith. I will promise to serve You, to lead You in prayer, to break the Bread of Life with You, and to be a faithful shepherd after the Heart of Christ. As Dean, I will serve our priests and our parishes across the islands — not to rule, but to help keep us united in love and mission. Saints Simon and Jude — whose feast we keep that day — were ordinary men. They were not famous. They were not powerful. But they were faithful to the end. They remind us that God does not call the perfect — He calls us, and walks with us despite our weaknesses. That is why I chose their feast — because I need their prayers, and I need yours, too. And so, I look ahead to 28 October at 6:00 PM. Bishop Philip will be there. Clergy and guests will join us. But truly — it is you I most need to see there. You are the family I am called to serve. It is before you that I will make my promises. It is for you that I will stand before God. I simply cannot imagine this moment without you. Please, come and be my witnesses, be my support, be my Family. Pray for me on that day - and every day - that I may always say with Saint Peter: *"Lord, you know that I love you — and I love them, too."*

With this sacred trust comes a profound awareness of my own weakness. Recently, many of You may have seen the wonderful article in the Guernsey Post. I want to say a sincere thank You to Simon De La Rue, the journalist, the reporter for the beautiful way he told the story. After this published article I have been truly overwhelmed by your kindness — your messages, your phone calls, your warm words. My heart has been deeply touched. But I want to be honest with You: where grace abounds, temptation is never far behind. It is like walking along a beautiful cliff edge — the view is glorious, but the drop is never far away. When we stand in the light, there is always the shadow of pride. I found myself having to pause, to pray, and to remind myself daily: You are a servant first. Nothing more, nothing less. There is a moment in the Gospel that haunts me — and it keeps me humble. Immediately after Simon Peter made the greatest confession in all of Scripture — *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God",* he tried to change, to stop God's salvation plan — and Jesus turned to him and said something astonishing: *"Get behind me, Satan!"* Why? Because in that very moment of greatness, Peter was in danger of forgetting who was leading and who was being led. He had spoken the truth — yet pride was already knocking at the door of his heart. That is my greatest fear — and my greatest prayer. The hat I will wear, the title I will receive, the authority entrusted to me — these are not crowns of honour. They are tools of service. They are a sacred trust — not a personal achievement. And if ever I begin to think they make me somehow greater than You — if ever I expect You to serve me rather than me serving You — then please, I beg You from the bottom of my heart: gently, lovingly, but boldly — tell me. Remind me. Call me back to the foot of the Cross. As Saint Paul said: *"We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."*

And so, because I am called first and foremost to serve — my heart leads me to those who need Christ's presence the most. Our sick, our elderly, our housebound, those who are lonely or isolated — you are the true treasure of the Church. The Church has always taught this truth. Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us that the suffering are not on the edges of our community — they are at its very heart. Saint Paul writes that Christ Himself fills up His own suffering in our bodies — not that His sacrifice was incomplete, but that He invites us to share in it. Our sick brothers and sisters offer their pain, their loneliness, their patience — and in doing so, they become channels of grace for all of us. Their prayers sustain our parish. Their quiet witness teaches us what faith really looks like. They are like precious jewels — sometimes unseen, yet radiating the light of Christ more brightly than we may ever know. So I want to come to You. Before anything else, I want to be with You. I am setting aside every Friday especially for this — two precious windows of time: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM & 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM. If You or someone You know would like a visit — to receive Holy Communion, Confession, a blessing, or simply a moment of prayer and friendship — please let me know. I will work closely with our Legion of Mary and our Befrienders Group to organize these visits, so we can be sure everyone is cared of. Just let me know, where and when and ***I'll be there for You, these five words I'd swear to You – I'll be there for You.***

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