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

Caritas Portsmouth Diocese

ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY
1st NOVEMBER 2026
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: SUCH ARE THE PEOPLE WHO SEEK YOUR FACE, OH LORD.

Sat 31st	**OUR LADY ON SATURDAY**		
	St. J	10.00am	Mass: Josette Schueller & Fred Hitchon RIP
	St. J	10.30am	**Rosary**
	LC	2.00pm	**Service for Our Blessed Mother Mary**
	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Vivian Hewlett RIP
Sun 1st Nov	**ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY, OFFICE PROPER**		†
	St. J	8.00am	Mass: Deceased Convent Benefactors
	OLSS	9.15am	Mass: People of the Parish
	St. J	10.30am	Mass: The Banton Family
	ND	5.30pm	**Rosary**
	ND	6.00pm	Mass: Elliott & Esme for safe travelling
Mon 2nd	**COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS (Office of the dead)**		
	St. J	7.30am	Mass Intentions: Faithful Departed & Holy Father's Intention
	OLSS	11.30am	**Rosary**
	OLSS	12noon	Mass Intentions: Holy Souls & Drabik Family
	LF	4.30pm	**Service of prayer and blessing of the graves**
	ND	6.00pm	Mass Intentions: Holy Father's Intention & Ngwashi's Family
Tues 3rd	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass: Holy Souls & Renouf Foundation (FM)
	Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am		
Wed 4th	**ST CHARLES BORROMEO, BISHOP, MEMORIAL**		
	St. J	9.30am	Mass: Pauline & Emmanuel Eugene –10 years Wedding Anniversary
	St. J	6.30pm	Mass: Our Lady of Fatima
	St. J	7.00pm	*Exposition, Rosary & Benediction for Vocations*
Thur 5th	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass: John Stacey RIP (FM)
	Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Deceased Members Knights of St Columba Guernsey (FM)
Fri 6th	**St. J**	7.30am	Mass: Mary De Cruz RIP
	LP	11.00am	Mass: Servant of God Frank Duff
	CFP	7.30pm	**Rosary**
Sat 7th	**OUR LADY ON SATURDAY**		
	St. J	10.00am	Mass: Sister Carmel RIP
	St. J	10.30am	**Rosary**
	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Wilfred & Christopher Cochrane RIP
Sun 8th Nov	**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Psalter week 4)**		
	St. J	8.00am	Mass: Gerald & Mello Fitzmaurice RIP †
	OLSS	9.15am	Mass: People of the Parish
	St. J	10.30am	Mass: Dead of all wars
	ND	5.30pm	**Rosary**
	ND	6.00pm	Mass: Rev Auguste Boone RIP (FM)

FM - Foundation Mass LP - Le Platon CFP - Centre for Peace LC - The Little Chapel
LF - Le Foulon Cemetery

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

On Monday 2nd November - Holy Souls Day

we'll gather at 4:30 pm at Le Foulon Cemetery for a special service of prayer and blessing of the graves. It will be a beautiful moment to remember our beloved deceased, to pray beside their resting places, and to entrust them once more to God's loving care.

Everyone is most warmly welcome.

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.**

LE PLATON MASS

Canon Hetherington will be celebrating mass at 11am weekday's at Le Platon. Everybody is welcome.

FAIRTRADE GOODS

We are a Fairtrade parish so you can buy fairtrade goods after 8am & 10.30am mass at the back of St. Josephs Church **This** Sunday 1st November**. Thank you so much**

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

The Holy Spirit charismatic Prayer Group will be meeting on Monday November 2nd 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

THE LITTLE LANTERN WALK

Blanchelande Nursery and Infant department are hosting an afternoon called **Little Lantern Walk** on **Sunday 15th November from 3:30pm to 5:00pm at Blanchelande College** and would like to extend the invitation to the Parish. Booking is essential to reserve your free space email Scarlett at **lepages@blanchelande.sch.gg**

LAY LEADERS CONFERENCE - Solent Hotel, Whiteley

Inspired by our ten-year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses,* the Lay Leaders Conference will take place on **Saturday 21 November** It will offer an opportunity to share experiences, explore fresh ideas and consider how clergy and laity can work together to strengthen our parishes and bring more people to know Jesus Christ. Whether you are involved with liturgy, catechesis, pastoral councils, outreach or any other aspect of parish life, this conference is for you. Please speak to the parish office for more information on how to book your place.

MUSICIANS NEEDED

If you can play any instrument or sing then why not consider joining The Delancey Music Group? We play each Sunday at the 9.15 Mass and are always pleased to welcome new members of any age. We also need some extra people to go on a rota for operating the projector. If you can help in any way or would like to find out more, please contact Angela - acgaudion@cwgsy.net, Judy - jharvey12020@outlook.com or Louise - Perrio.louise@gmail.com, or speak to us after Mass on a Sunday.

READERS ROTA FOR ST JOSEPH AND ST MARY

The rota for the period 8th November 2026 to 7th February 2027 is available in the sacristy, please collect after Mass.
It will also be on the website next week.

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 are available in all three churches

Please do come and celebrate with Our Parish Family

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:

This 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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Faithful Departed of our parish and community
All deceased clergy of the Diocese
Le Platon Home & all in residential & Nursing Care
All who are Sick and housebound in the parish
For those who do not believe in **GOD**

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Valerie De La Fosse, Canon David Mahy
May They Rest in Peace.+

ANNIVERSARIES

Nick Vizia and all those whose anniversaries occur around now.
May they Rest In Peace. +

OFFERTORY: £3632.00 (Inc standing orders and donations through the website and Dona card machines)
Attendance numbers: **532**

This weekend is **Bamenda Sunday**, a celebration of a partnership between our two dioceses where we learn, pray and support each other. An important part of the link has been the support we have sent over the years. Your generosity has made a huge impact on the lives of many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Bamenda, and it most sincerely appreciated by them. You can read how your donations have supported Caroline and Stephen in the Bamenda Sunday newsletter.

Please give as generously as your contributions really do transform lives. Use the QR code to see the different donations options and gift aid if you can. Thank you.

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 upon last Wednesday - day of the Installation, my heart overflows with gratitude deeper than words. So many of You told me that the liturgy itself was unlike anything You had known before — radiant, solemn, alive; a moment when heaven seemed to touch our island earth. Bishop Philip himself shared that this was the first time he had celebrated the installation of a Dean — a sign of how deeply he honours Guernsey, Alderney and Sark, and this whole parish family – You, Dear Friends.

There is an ancient story of a great cathedral being built. A visitor walked among the workers and asked each one what they were doing. One said: "I am cutting stone." Another: "I am carrying mortar." But one old woman, her hands worn and dusty, replied quietly: "I am building a dwelling-place for God." She understood that no act was too small if offered in love. That is exactly what unfolded here.

Yes, the liturgy was magnificent. The choir and organist lifted our hearts towards heaven. The lectors proclaimed the Word with reverence. The flowers were arranged as though preparing the very court of the King. And I think especially of Ron — our chef — who gave so generously even amid his birthday; setting aside celebration for a time so that our guests might be cared for. Pauline too worked tirelessly behind the scenes so that every guest might rest well and feel truly welcomed.

Some of the children persevered late into the evening even during half-term. The Legion of Mary, the Union of Mothers, Catenians, the Holy Spirit Group, the Befrienders, altar servers, cleaners, ushers, flower arrangers, all our Beloved Sisters from the Convent of Our Lady of Mercy, Dcn Mark— You were not merely organising an event. You were becoming living stones of that dwelling-place of God.

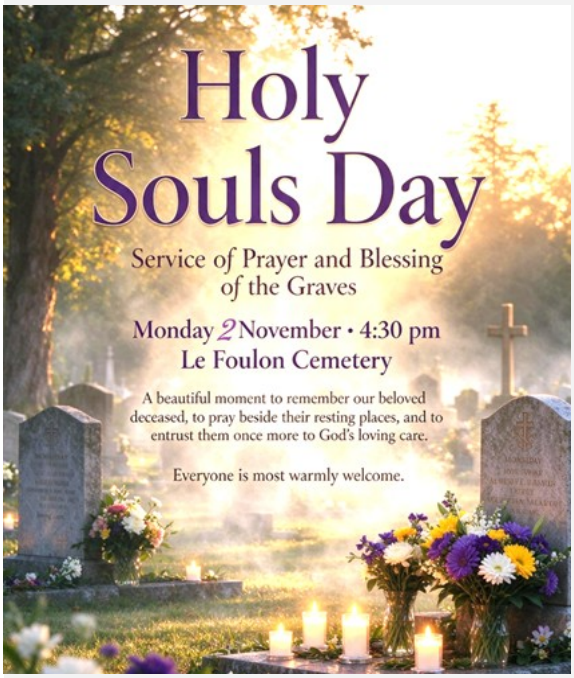
Many more would have been with us had they not travelled away for half-term; yet even so, there was such fullness of grace. Bishop Philip's presence was not simply an official act — it was a father's blessing upon this whole deanery. And some guests travelled from far to stand with us.

What moves me most is this: the beauty of that liturgy was not something that simply descended from heaven untouched by human hands. It passed through your hands. Through every smile of welcome, every hour of prayer, every act of service offered without counting the cost. You showed the face of Christ to one another and to all who came.

This day belongs not to one priest, but to all of us. May we remember it long. May it keeps building, keeps welcoming, keeps praying.

November opens like a vast, quiet pilgrimage road. Before us stretches the great communion of generations: those who walked before us, who poured out their strength, their labour, their love, and often their very lives so that we might stand here today — bearing the image and likeness of God.

Remembrance Sunday will soon call us to honour those who gave their lives for freedom. But Holy Souls' Day calls us further still: to remember all our beloved departed — every generation, every unknown sacrifice, every quiet struggle that shaped us. They have entered that mysterious journey home; and we, still pilgrims here, are called to walk with them in prayer.



This Monday, the Church grants us a precious gift: on this day, priests can celebrate three Masses for the Holy Souls. Fr Benedict and I will offer these Masses as a bridge between our world and theirs — a living proof that love does not end at death. That we have not forgotten them. That we never will.

Here is the journey laid before us:

- *7:30 am – Saint Joseph & Saint Mary's Church*
- *12:00 noon – Our Lady and Star of the Sea, Delancey*
- *4:30 pm – Le Foulon Cemetery: Service of Prayer and Blessing of the Graves*
- *6:00 pm – Notre Dame Church*

Holy Souls' Day is not a Solemnity of obligation. Yet it is one of the most tender moments of our faith. It is the day we say to those who have gone ahead: *"We are still with you. We carry you before the Father. We thank you for all you gave us."* Please, let's think of them as travellers who have gone before us into the mist. We cannot see their path fully — but prayer becomes our lantern. We do not command their journey; we accompany them. We entrust them to the mercy of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. So, please come — at whatever hour You can. Come early in the morning before the day begins; come at noon when life is busy; come to the cemetery to kneel beside the resting-places of those You love; come in the evening when the day fades and the heart turns naturally toward eternity. Come as pilgrims, not as spectators. Come to say: *"You are remembered. You are loved. You are held in God's mercy."* For they sacrificed so much so that we might live. And now our prayer becomes our gift back to them — especially through the Holy Mass - the most precious gift we can give. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

May we one day be reunited with them in the home that never fades.



And, finally for this weekend - here is the first glimpse of the pilgrimage that is beginning to take shape — a true pilgrimage-journey across Europe, not merely a holiday, but an adventure of soul and road alike.

Dates confirmed: **4 October – 17 October 2027.** The heart of this pilgrimage is Gietrzwałd, marking the 150th anniversary of Poland's only officially approved apparition of Our Lady. This alone makes the whole journey a precious gift — to stand where Our Lady appeared, to pray where heaven touched Polish soil. Imagine this: we begin our crossing toward the Baltic Sea — that vast northern expanse where wind, water and sky seem to whisper of eternity. We enter Poland from the north and travel slowly southward: along Baltic shores, through ancient towns, toward the Tatras — those majestic mountains that rise like cathedrals of stone and light. On the way we shall visit places where Our Lady appeared, sites of Eucharistic miracles, and treasures of history and culture that will remain etched deep in memory long after we return home. Then begins the homeward journey: another three days across Europe, discovering yet more hidden and mysterious places of faith, history and culture. And here is something especially beautiful: this caravan is open wide. You are welcome to invite family and friends from mainland UK, from other islands, from wherever they may be. They need not begin the journey from Guernsey; there will be opportunities to join us at Calais in France, where the coach will pick up those travelling from different starting points. So no matter your circumstances — whether You sail from Guernsey, travel across England, or meet us in France — You are invited to become part of this moving pilgrimage family. This is for those who love the pilgrimage spirit: those who do not mind early mornings, winding roads, journeys, shared silence, shared song and shared prayer. It is for those who understand that a pilgrimage is not just ***"seeing sights"*** — it is being carried forward, mile-by-mile, deeper into the mystery of Christian heritage. Full itinerary, costs, ferry and coach details will follow very soon for those who have already expressed interest. If You feel called to join this caravan — or know someone who would love to meet us along the way — please contact me



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