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

Don't be afraid to say, 'I am Catholic."
— POPE LEO XIV

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
15th NOVEMBER 2026
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: BLESSED ARE ALL WHO FEAR THE LORD.

Sat 14th	**OUR LADY ON SATURDAY**		
	St. J	10.00am	Mass: Deceased Members of The Legion
	St. J	10.30am	**Rosary**
	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Brian Devenport
Sun 15th Nov	**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Psalter week 1)**		
	St. J	8.00am	Mass: Stephen & Bina Lee RIP †
	OLSS	9.15am	Mass: Holy Souls
	St. J	10.30am	Mass: People of the Parish
	ND	5.30pm	**Rosary**
	ND	6.00pm	Mass: John & Mary Sigwart RIP (FM)
Mon 16th	**ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, BISHOP, SOLEMNITY**		
	St. J	7.30am	Mass: Ernie Breban RIP
	OLSS	11.30am	**Rosary**
	OLSS	12noon	Mass: Ian Tardivel & Family (FM)
Tues 17th	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass Intentions: Jean Savage RIP & Renouf Foundation (FM)
	Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am		
Wed 18th	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass: Lillian Woodall RIP (FM)
	St. J	6.30pm	Mass: Alexander RIP
	St. J	7.00pm	*Exposition, Rosary & Benediction for Vocations*
Thur 19th	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass: For the Deceased whose names are entrusted to our Parish to pray for.
	Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Yvonne Phillips RIP (FM)
Fri 20th	**St. J**	7.30am	Mass: Joseite Schueller & Fred Hitchon RIP
	LP	11.00am	Mass: Private Intentions
	CFP	7.30pm	**Rosary**
Sat 21st	**THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MEMORIAL**		
	St. J	10.00am	Mass: Tony Jenkinson RIP
	St. J	10.30am	**Rosary**
	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: In thanksgiving
	OLSS	7.00pm	**Prayer Vigil with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
Sun 22nd Nov	**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, SOLEMNITY (Office Proper)**		
	St. J	8.00am	Mass: Thanksgiving Baguio Family †
	OLSS	9.15am	Mass: Thomas Moriarty RIP
	St. J	10.30am	Mass: Irene Tersigni RIP
	ND	5.30pm	**Rosary**
	ND	6.00pm	Mass: People of the Parish

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





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.**

LAUDATO Si'

Will meet on Monday 16th November from 7pm in the St. Yves parish room. Please do join us, you are all welcome.

PRAYER VIGIL

There will be a prayer vigil, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in the church at Delancey on SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21st from 7pm-10pm to pray for our parish Catholic community, especially the youth. There will be some hymns, prayers and times of silence. Do come along and join us in prayer for a short time or for the whole evening if you are able to.

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

GUERNSEY WELFARE SERVICE

CHRISTMAS 2026 - collection and giving ideas

The Guernsey Welfare Service have given us their collection giving list which is on the noticeboards in all three churches. There are a number of items that can be donated. We have food banks at the back of all three churches. Thank you for donating to such an incredible local charity that will help families this Christmas.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

God's blessing on the Diocese
World Day of the Poor
Our Parish communities & Schools here in Guernsey
Le Platon Home & all in residential & Nursing Care
All who are Sick and housebound in the parish
All who have lost their faith

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED & ANNIVERSARIES

Helen Dyke whose Requiem Mass will be on Saturday 5th December at 12noon in St. Josephs Church.
and all those whose anniversaries occur around now.
May they Rest In Peace. +



OFFERTORY: £3898.00 (Inc standing orders and donations through the website and Dona card machines)
Attendance numbers: **613**

WINGS (World in Need Group) ***collection this weekend Saturday/Sunday 14th and 15th November.***

Thank you all so much for your continued generosity. The Holy Family Children's Home in Bethlehem and CAFOD Venezuela Earthquake appeal each received £950 from the last collection. Your donations this time will go to the **CAFOD Advent Winter Appeal**

CAFOD Partners Caritas Jerusalem work in the camps supporting vulnerable families such as Yasmine, a mother with a small baby, with essential supplies and mobile medical clinics. You may have seen pictures of the effect on the camps of the devastating floods caused by heavy rains.

Yasmine's family have been forced to flee more than once and now live in a camp in Gaza.
Without the supplies they need to stay warm, or access to proper medical care, many families are at real risk from serious illness in the winter months.
You can see more on this appeal on CAFOD.org.uk.
Thank you again for your generous support and your essential prayers for all those working in dangerous situations to support our brothers and sisters.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND - HOW YOU CAN HELP

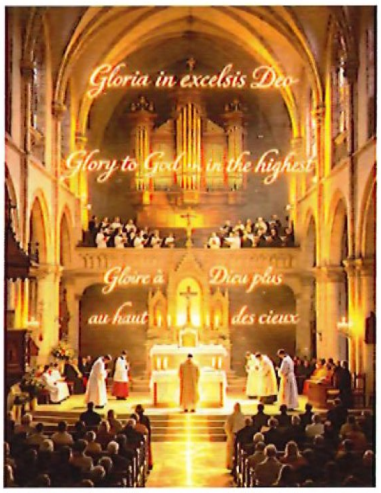
Please help us provide for the priests who have dedicated their lives to our parishes and parishioners by visiting the Priests' Retirement Fund page on the Diocesan website to learn more about how your donation will help and to consider making a regular gift in support of our retired priests. Supporting our retired priests with either a one off amount, or there are envelopes in all our church porches for this collection or you can donate on our Dona machines. An ongoing monthly gift ensures priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others can retire with dignity and security. **Scan the QR code to donate to our appeal, or visit our appeal page on our website: portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work/donate/**

Thank you for your continued generosity!

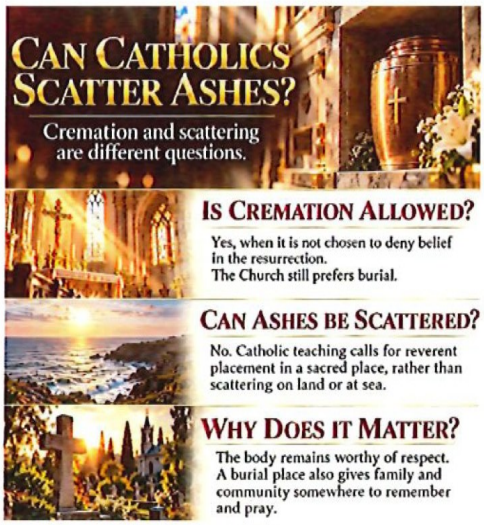
Our Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ, our Friends, our Dear Parishioners and warmly welcomed visitors,

We give thanks to the Lord for another rich, fruitful week of grace and formation within our Parish Family. Last Saturday, we gathered with our altar servers — our children, young people, and senior servers — for a formation meeting. It was a true joy to witness their care, devotion, and eagerness to serve the Lord at the altar with clarity and unity of the Liturgy.

We are reminded that no ministry in the Church is merely a task or a function. Every role is wrapped in permanent, lifelong formation. Just as our altar servers grow in reverence, discipline and love for the Liturgy, so too priests are called to ongoing formation. We are not ordained and then finished with learning. Guided by Saint John Paul II's so inspirational document: ***'Pastores Dabo Vobis'***, supported by our Diocese with annual retreats and study, we continually form our conscience, deepening our knowledge of Sacred Scripture, Apostolic Tradition and the Church's Magisterium. We all know, that even a master never stops practising, refining their craft so they may offer the worthiest, beautiful performance. And that very same image leads me first to our wonderful Saint Joseph's choir, under the leadership of Luke, our organist. Week after week they gather, labouring prayerfully to lift our liturgy to the heights. Truly, their work is a masterpiece of sacred music; many a great basilica and cathedral would rightly admire the beauty they bring to our worship. Several of our island's dignitaries who joined us for the Mass with Bishop Philip a few weeks ago spoke of how deeply moved they were by the choir's sacred, reverent music. This is the fruit of their faithful, constant practice for the glory of God. We are also so grateful for our organists Glenn and Vic, and the wonderful music group at Delancey, who prayerfully prepare the distinct, joyful, uplifting liturgical songs and hymns for our Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Mass there. They tend their part of our parish's sacred offering with the same loving care. Add to these our quiet, reverent 8 am silent Mass at Saint Joseph's. And so our parish becomes like a great, varied garden for the Lord: one bed blooms with the soaring, timeless beauty of choir and organ; another bears the bright, joyful song of our Delancey music group; and a quiet, still corner is set aside for the wordless, contemplative prayer of the early-morning Mass. All different, yet all growing toward the same Sun, all giving glory to our one God. No one bloom is "better" than the other; each has its own place in the Father's garden.



At the same time, please be sure, I am very aware that we walk a delicate, beautiful path of balance. Some among our parish family find the regular use of Latin in our singing challenging. Latin, we must remember, is the ancient, sacred language of the Universal Church; it binds us to every age of the faithful across every continent, a timeless thread woven through the history of our worship. Yet the Liturgy is also meant to draw the whole congregation into active, joyful participation in prayer and song. It is like a great symphony: it needs the sublime, refined soloists — our choir and musicians — but it also calls the whole assembly, the whole "orchestra" of God's people, to take their part. No single instrument carries the whole work. So we will move forward, step-by-step, with the help of all people of goodwill in our parish, to find that perfect harmony: preserving the timeless beauty of our sacred Latin heritage, while creating space for the rest of the faithful to join fully in song and prayer. We know we cannot please every single person, but we strive to nurture a worship experience where most of us may grow, learn, and lift our voices together to the Lord.



I also would like to give heartfelt thanks for the blessed opportunity I had last week at Blancheland Catholic College, visiting our primary-school children. It was such a privilege to teach them about the mysteries of the Holy Rosary and the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. I met there a truly wonderful, dedicated team of teachers, supporting our children in their faith journey. I offer special gratitude to our dear parishioner Angela, for her extraordinary work, organisation, and guidance in making those catechetical sessions possible. Her service at the College is a shining example of how the Holy Spirit works through the members of our parish in many different places.

Now, as we remain deep within this sacred month of November, our whole parish turns our hearts in a special way toward our beloved faithful departed. I want to give my deepest thanks to every single family and parishioner who has entrusted to us the names of their dear ones who have passed away. Every name written on our

parish remembrance list is held before the Lord. Day after day, we lift those souls up in prayers, the Holy Masses offered for them.

And it is within this reflection on our beloved dead that I would like to share with You something very important, drawn straight from the Church's teaching in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Canon Law, and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's instruction '***Ad Resurgendum Cum Christo***' — the teaching about the respectful care of the cremated ashes of our loved ones. This is not merely a list of rigid rules. It is the Church, our Mother, wrapping her arms around us, guarding the profound, sacred truth of who we are: our bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit, even after death, destined for the glorious Resurrection on the last day.

Did you know Catholics should not keep cremated remains at home?



Catholics may be cremated, but their remains should be buried in holy ground or placed in a sacred resting place.

Let me paint for You the picture the Holy Church sees. When we cremate the remains of our beloved, those ashes are not merely dust, a keepsake for the mantelpiece. They are what remains of the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the body that one day Christ will raise up, whole and glorified. This is why the Church teaches us three very clear, important guidelines:

1. **Cremated ashes** must be reverently buried or entombed in a sacred, designated place: a Catholic cemetery, a columbarium, a mausoleum.
2. **We may NOT** scatter the ashes on the land, sea, or air.
3. **We may NOT** keep the ashes at home, nor divide the ashes between different family members to keep separate portions in their own houses.

Many of us ask: *"Why, Mother Church? What harm is there in keeping a small casket of ashes on my shelf, or scattering a little where my loved one loved to walk?"* Let me share the reasons, in the gentle, vivid way the Church would have us understand them. Imagine a beautiful, precious casket on your living-room cabinet. To You, it holds the most precious person in the world to You. But what happens if your home is broken into? A thief sees that ornate, expensive-looking vessel. They assume it holds jewellery, silver, something of great monetary value. They steal it. Later, when they discover it contains ashes, they may discard it carelessly, tossed aside somewhere, with no reverence, no honour for the child of God whose body it is. Or think of the years ahead. When we ourselves pass away, our homes are cleared out, our possessions passed on, given to charity shops, cleared by house renovators. That sacred casket, forgotten among our belongings, could be treated like rubbish, discarded, with no one knowing the dignity of what lies inside. These are not just made-up stories; these are real, heartbreaking situations that have happened to Christian families. And scattering the ashes carries its own sorrowful risk: the sacred remains, meant for a resting place, are treated as something casual, something to be casually spread across the ground, trampled, disturbed, with no permanent, reverent grave where the family may come to pray, to place flowers, to remember. The Church forbids these things, not to be hard-hearted, but to protect the lasting, unchanging dignity of the child of God, for all time, long after we ourselves are gone.

The Church does permit cremation, do please remember that. Cremation itself is allowed, so long as the ashes are then placed in that proper, sacred resting place. The grave, the columbarium, that is their permanent, holy home. A place for us to visit, to kneel, to pray, to remember. A place waiting for the day when Christ will raise that body, glorified, to new life. It is a tangible sign of our hope in the Resurrection. I invite every family with questions about this teaching to please come and speak with me. I will walk you through every detail, together with our parish and diocese, to help your family make the choices that honour your beloved departed and honour our Catholic faith.

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

