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

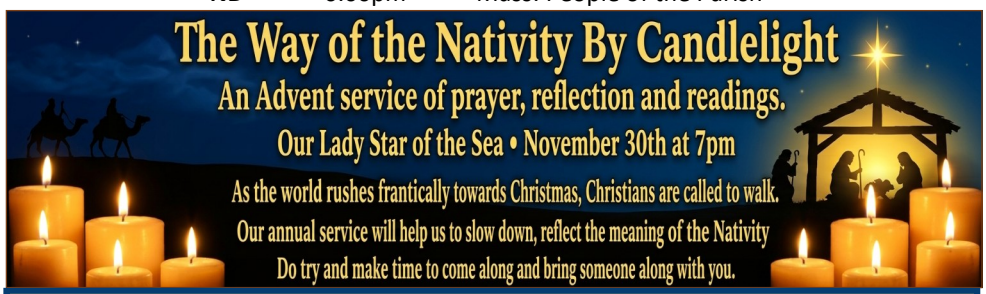
PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:
Name: CDP Guernsey
Sorting Code: 309304
Account number: 00879070



ANNUAL MASS FOR THE DEAD
28TH NOVEMBER
10AM - ST. JOSEPH'S

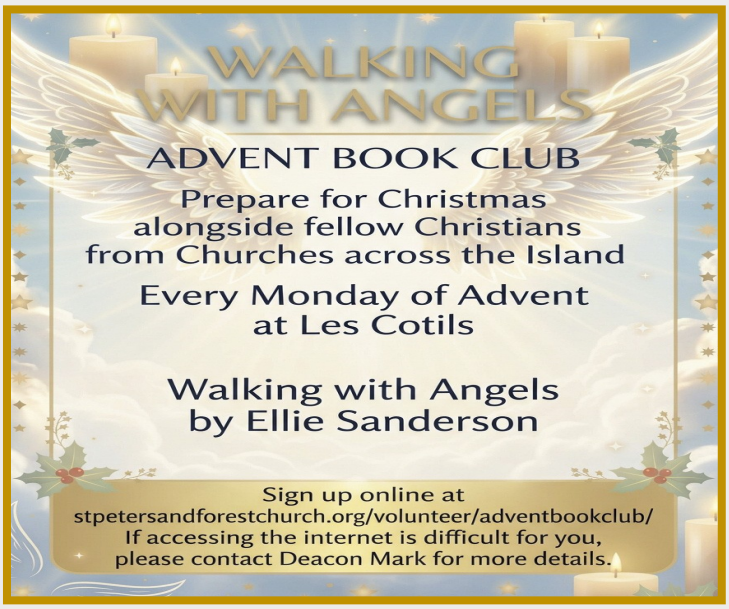
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, SOLEMNITY
22nd NOVEMBER 2026
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT

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
Mon 23rd	**St. J**	7.30am	Mass: Private Intentions
	OLSS	11.30am	**Rosary**
	OLSS	12noon	Mass: Charlie Glover—18th Birthday
Tues 24th	**ST ANDREW DUNG-LAC, PRIEST & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS, MEMORIAL**		
	St. J	9.30am	Mass Intentions: Renouf Foundation (FM) & For the Soul of Bert
	Exposition of the blessed sacrament until 10.30am		
Wed 25th	**St. J**	9.30am	Mass: Renouf Foundation (FM)
	St. J	5.15pm	**Reception of The Body of +Sr De Lourdes RIP & The Vigil**
	St. J	6.30pm	Mass: Visa extension - expecting a miracle through my sacrifice
	St. J	7.00pm	Vespers for the Dead **(No Holy Hour)**
Thur 26th	**St. J**	9.30am	**Requiem Mass**: Sr De Lourdes
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Isabel Neto De Miranda RIP
Fri 27th	**St. J**	7.30am	Mass: Joseite Schueller & Fred Hitchon RIP
	LP	11.00am	Mass: Heavenly Birthday Dave Smith RIP
	CFP	7.30pm	**Rosary**
Sat 28th	**Our Lady on Saturday**		
	St. J	10.00am	**Annual Mass for the Dead**
	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY		
	OLSS	6.00pm	Mass: Bridie Harnden RIP
Sun 29th Nov	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Psalter 1) Year B**		
	St. J	8.00am	Mass: Katy Elizabeth Bennington RIP (FM)
	OLSS	9.15am	Mass: Bridget Drainey RIP
	St. J	10.30am	Mass: Martha Hollowell †
	ND	5.30pm	**Rosary**
	ND	6.00pm	Mass: People of the Parish



'Mince Pies'

Would you be willing to bake or bring a few mince pies for the Parish Advent service on Monday 30th Dec? If so, please contact the office or Sandy Leightley on 07781 193673 to arrange to drop them off.



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 November 23rd 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

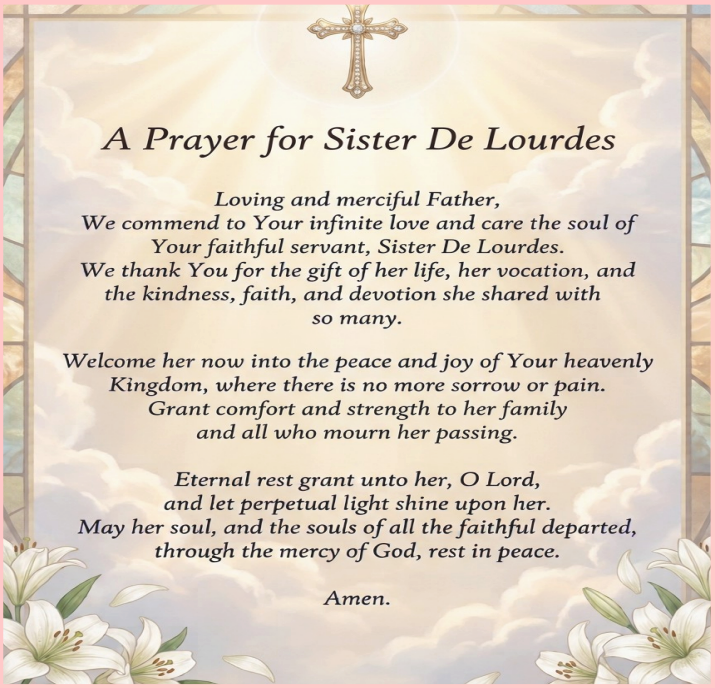
COFFEE MORNING – THIS WEDNESDAY- 25th NOVEMBER.

The Parish room at St Joseph's will be open for tea/coffee and cake on WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25th and on every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Drop in any time between 9.30-11.30am. Everyone is very welcome!

WAYAYA - CHARITY JAM SALES

The Charity Jam sales in aid of Wayaya will be taking place again this year, as follows: **November 29th,** St Josephs after the 08.00 and 10.30 Masses, in the church entrance. **December 6th**, at Delancey after the 09.15 Mass, in the coffee area **December 13th**, at St Josephs. **December 20th**, at Delancey.
Lots of varieties and flavours you won't find in the shops. All organically grown and home-made. Great for presents, the store cupboard, or just to enjoy!!





ROSARY

For the beatification of Edel Quinn (Legion of Mary) will take place at 2.30pm in St Joseph's parish room on Sunday 29th November.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Young People (National Youth Sunday)
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 musicians in the Diocese and national network of pastoral musicians.
Parish Youth Groups & Youth Groups

ANNIVERSARIES

Lillian Woodall
and all those whose anniversaries occur around now.
May they Rest In Peace. +

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Olga Bott (Alderney)
Sr De Lourdes whose Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 26th November 9.30am in St. Josephs Church
Ann Elizabeth Solftley whose Requiem Mass will be on Friday 4th December at 10.30am in St. Josephs Church.
Helen Dyke whose Requiem Mass will be on Saturday 5th December at 12noon in St. Josephs Church.
May they Rest In Peace. +

OFFERTORY: £3670.00 (Inc standing orders and donations through the website and Dona card machines)
Attendance numbers: **578**

WINGS

Dear friends Thank you all so much for your donations to the WINGS collection which came to **£913.00** which will be forwarded to the CAFOD Advent Appeal. Your generosity will make a huge difference to mothers like Yasmine who are currently living in tents in Gaza. Caritas Jerusalem, CAFOD's partner in the Holy Land, is helping to provide the means to stay dry and warm as well as medical support. See **CAFOD.org.uk** for more information. Thank you again and please keep them all in your prayers.

Next Weekend's second collection is for The Guild of St. Joseph.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Guild of St Joseph

Thank you to all for your financial support and prayers throughout 2026.

Despite the relative affluence in our island, there always remain families and individuals facing hardship. Statutory agencies provide support to many, as do the numerous valuable charities in Guernsey that many of you also generously support. The Guild are part of this, often finding we are called upon when the 'need' falls through or outside the remit of other sources, or has some urgency we can respond to promptly with minimal 'red tape'. Aid is unconditional regardless of the recipient's faith status.

In addition to the practical support, this is a tangible expression of the Church's mission responding to the Gospel call "love thy neighbour" and "charity".

The Guild was established in 1893 (then called the "Brotherhood"), under the patronage of St Joseph, protector of the Church and the Holy Family, and patron of families.



Our primary income is through periodic 'second collections' together with private donations, for which we are truly grateful. Thank you again! The call on our support is not declining.

Requests for aid, in kind or financial, are usually received via professionals eg such as the schools or social workers, and some more direct on behalf of individuals via our clergy, the parish office, or Guild members. If you are aware of someone facing serious need please let us know (with their permission please, so we can contact them); Guild members then assess the situation to determine if we can assist. All referrals are treated confidentially.

Support is generally by way of one-off financial aid or in kind. In this past year we've supported families and individuals facing issues such as:- financial hardship due to unexpected traumas, illness, unemployment; already struggling families needing support such as replacing critical household items to reduce the strain and burden on the parents; ex-prisoners with specific needs upon release; and other similar situations. Throughout 2026 we made eight such grants.

At Christmas time our schools provide us with details of families in difficult circumstances. The Guild, thanks to your charitable generosity, provide these families with food vouchers to ensure they can enjoy Christmas fare and help make it the occasion all children deserve. Last year we made seven such grants. This year initial enquiries indicate an increase on this.

The Guild's primary priority and first call on our funds is always directed at individuals and families. However, once those needs have been met and funds permitting, at Christmas we have made grants to a few other Guernsey charities who provide direct care at Christmas and reach people in need that our church otherwise wouldn't be able to reach directly. As examples this has included some support to the Salvation Army Christmas meal for those in our community who might be alone at Christmas; Guernsey Welfare when they have faced exceptional demands on their food bank; the Prison Christian Fellowship towards a gift for prisoner's children. The primary aim of this is supporting people in need, but we are mindful that this also raises awareness of the Catholic Church living out it's charitable mission.

Present Committee: Fr Marcin (Ex officio President), Teresa Cable, Magdalena Ford, Greg Harvey, Val Kilpatrick, Owen Lee, John Merrien.

If you are able please support our collection next weekend and remember those we assist in your prayers.

Thank you for reading. ***Guild of St Joseph Committee***

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

The week behind us felt a little like one of those Gospel journeys where much happens between one village and the next. There was laughter and there were challenges. There were plans that unfolded exactly as expected and others that required patience, flexibility, and trust. Yet looking back, what remains strongest is gratitude. God's grace so often works quietly, weaving together seemingly ordinary moments into something beautiful. As your priests, we would simply like to say ***thank You***.

One of the greatest joys of the week was our meeting with the children and families preparing for First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation. Thirty-seven children have now begun this precious journey of faith. The number itself is encouraging, but what gives even greater hope is what that number represents: thirty-seven unique stories, thirty-seven young hearts being invited into a deeper friendship with Jesus Christ.

At our Induction gathering 2 weeks ago, we spoke honestly about the purpose of this preparation. The destination is not simply a celebration day, beautiful though that day will be. The destination is the altar. The destination is the Eucharist. The destination is a lifelong friendship with the Lord who waits for us in every

Holy Mass. The Church calls the Eucharist the *"source and summit"* of the Christian life because everything flows from Christ and leads back to Christ. Our prayer is that this journey will not end with a certificate, photographs, or family celebrations, but will continue Sunday after Sunday, as children and families keep the promise to remain close to the Lord whom they will receive in Holy Communion.

I would like to thank our parents in a special way. Long before any priest, catechist, or teacher enters a child's faith journey, it is the parents who first teach the language of faith through prayer, example, kindness, forgiveness, and love. At Baptism, the Church entrusted You with a sacred mission. You remain the first and most important teachers of your children's faith, and we are grateful for your willingness to walk this journey with them. My sincere thanks also go to our catechists and to Mrs Mary Robertshaw, our Headteacher of the Catholic Primary schools, whose generosity and dedication once again make this programme possible. Faith is passed on most effectively not through textbooks alone but through faithful witnesses who freely give their time, energy, and love.

This week has also been a time of sadness and challenge for our parish family, as our beloved Sister De Lourdes has been called home to the Lord. We give thanks for her life, her faithful service, and the love she shared with so many. Please, keep Sr De Lourdes in your prayers and entrust her to the infinite mercy of God. May she rest in peace, and may the Lord bring comfort and hope to all who mourn her loss.

I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to those parishioners whose work is rarely seen but without whom so much would simply not happen. Every church is a little like an iceberg: what is visible on Sunday rests upon a much larger hidden foundation. There are those who prepare the sacristy, care for the sacred vessels, arrange the candles, organise linens, clean, polish, tidy, prepare, and quietly ensure that everything is ready for the celebration of the sacred mysteries. Their work is often unnoticed, but never by God. They remind us that some of the most important acts of love are performed away from the spotlight. The great cathedrals of Europe were built not only by architects and master builders but also by countless craftsmen whose names are now forgotten, yet whose work still lifts hearts heavenward centuries later. Our parish is blessed with many such people. Their hidden generosity helps create a place where faith can flourish, prayer can deepen, and Christ can be encountered.

For all the laughter, all the challenges, all the hidden acts of service, and all the blessings of this past week, let us give thanks to God, from whom every good gift comes. May He continue to guide our children, strengthen our families, bless all who serve our parish, and draw each of us ever closer to His Eucharistic Heart.

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



