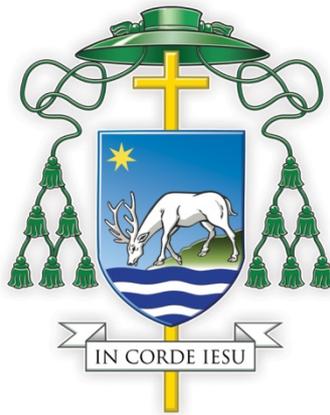


BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

Rt. Rev. Philip A. Egan BA, STL, PhD



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHILIP

to the Faithful of St. Anne and St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Alderney,
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15th August 2017

Dear Parishioners of Alderney,

I am happy to announce that from this September I will appoint to your parish a full-time, resident priest, Fr. John Lavers. Please give him a warm welcome. I have asked Fr. John to work with you to renew the mission of the Church on the island, with special concern to reach out to all the 'inactive' Catholics and to those of good will, ready to welcome the Gospel. In appointing Fr. John, I wish to acknowledge the wonderful care given by Canon Michael Hore and the priests of Guernsey. They have kindly offered to be available to supply for Fr. John when he is absent.

I also want to ask for your full involvement in an important new project. Thanks to the enormous generosity of the Sisters of Mercy, who have made available the convent next to church, I am happy to announce that a new community of contemplative nuns will move in. I have asked these Sisters, who belong to the Franciscan Family of the Immaculate Heart and St. Maximilian, to work with Fr. John and you the parishioners, in developing a House of Prayer, 'The Adoremus Centre.' It will host a Conventual Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and the singing of the Divine Office, live-streamed over the internet. The Adoremus Centre will support the clergy and people of our Diocese, not least in the Channel Islands, in the work of new evangelisation. It will also pray for vocations. Given the challenges Catholics face in evangelising contemporary culture, I believe this project, which is about our total dependence on God's providence, is crucial both for the future of the Diocese and for the peoples of our lands.

So I wish to invite you, the people of the parish, to join Fr. John and the Sisters in this new venture and to support it in every way you can, so that Alderney can become a powerhouse of prayer supporting our Diocese. I am sure you will feel inspired by this venture. Please give Fr. John and the Sisters a warm welcome, plus your love, encouragement and support. Please accept too my own best wishes to you all.

In Corde Iesu,

+Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth