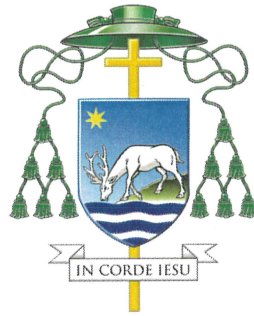


Bishop of Portsmouth
Rt. Rev. Philip A. Egan BA, STL, PhD
Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHILIP

To Fr Anthony Lobo SDB and the Faithful
of the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Dominic Savio, Cove
Saturday, 10 October 2026

I write to assure you of my prayers and congratulations at the conclusion of your year of celebrations for the Golden Jubilee of your beautiful church and parish dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Dominic Savio.

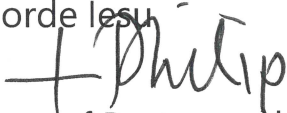
Anniversaries are always times when we look back over the years, thanking God for the graces and blessings received here: the sacraments celebrated, the children baptised and confirmed, the First Holy Communions made, the marriages and funerals that have taken place, as well as the beloved parishioners, priests and deacons whom we have known and loved, and who have formed and served this community. There is so much to thank God for.

At the same time, a jubilee is a time to look forward. The Church in our day is calling us to the work of the new evangelisation and so we should pray today for the spread of the Gospel. The new bookshop should be a help with this along with the new Parish Outreach and Mission Ministry. We pray that we may put Christ at the centre of everything we do and that the community of Our Lady and St Dominic may be outward-looking in service and mission.

When I wrote to you last year to mark the beginning of celebrations for this fiftieth anniversary year, I asked you as a community to find new ways of making it easy for the faithful to come here to meet the Lord and to adore Him in the Holy Eucharist. I am delighted to hear that parishioners have generously sponsored a new Exposition Tabernacle to help this missionary endeavour.

We pray for the community gathered here, for the young and for the next generations. Let us also remember Fr Tony Sultana SDB in our prayers. May this community be filled with people who are joyful and enthusiastic missionary-disciples. May the love of Christ reach everyone in this land, especially the poorest and the most needy.

With my prayers and best wishes,

In Corde Iesu

Bishop of Portsmouth