



St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot
GU11 3JB

St Mary's
Belle Vue Road Aldershot
GU12 4RX

T: 01252 320956
E: office@aldershot-catholics.uk
W: www.aldershot-catholics.uk
Facebook: /AldershotCatholics
Twitter/Instagram:@AldstCatholics

Office Opening Hours
Monday - 10am - 2.30pm
Wednesday 10am - 2.30pm
Friday 10am - 2pm



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Saturday Devotion.

3rd January 2026

Confessions available from 11 am at St Joseph's during the first Saturday prayers and readings. Mass at noon, concluding with final prayers at 12:45 pm.

All are welcome.

Confession

Please note that there will be no confessions on the 27th

Mass Intentions

Request Mass Intentions at the Parish Office (Mon-Fri 10 am-12 pm), phone, or email: office@aldershot-catholics.uk. Father will announce names during Mass - please be patient with pronunciations as he honours each person with care. Mass intentions traditionally support the parish priest's income. Contact the parish office to arrange.

Mass Times 4th Sunday of Advent

Sat	20th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	21st	StJ	9.00am		Private Intention
		StJ	10.30 am		Matthew Fernandes
Mon	22nd	StM	9.30am	Liturgy of Day	Sick of the Parish
Tues	23rd	StJ	9.30am	Liturgy of Day	Vocations
Wed	24th	StJ	8.00pm	First Mass of Christmas	Private Intention
Thurs	25th	StJ	9.00am		Holy Souls
	25th		10.30am		Sick of the Parish
Fri	26th	StJ	11.00am	St Stephen	

Christmas

Sat	27th	StM	5.30pm	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	Future of the Parish
Sun	28th	StJ	9.00am		People of the Parish
		StJ	10.30 am		McLoughlin Family
Mon	29th	StM	9.30am	St Thomas of Canterbury	Jadwiga Hill - RIP
Tues	30th	StJ	11am	Requim Mass	David Rudd - RIP
Wed	31st	StM		No Mass	
Thurs	1st	StJ	11am	Mary the Holy Mother of God	Vocations
Fri	2nd			No Mass	
Sat	3rd	StJ	12pm		



Message from Fr Rob

As we gather to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, I always find myself reflecting on the year. This sacred season reminds us that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us," and I see the light of that Incarnation reflected daily in your faith, your service, and your devotion in our parish. Things have changed and grown so much in the last two years.

I want to extend my deepest thanks for your support and encouragement. There is much more to do. As we stand in the light of Christ looking towards the new year. I am grateful for those who have volunteered their time to assist our parish mission. For those who have supported our endeavours with the quiet power of your prayers, you make the Gospel visible in our community. You are the living stones of this church, and it is a humbling privilege to serve as your Parish Priest.

May the peace of the Christ rest upon your homes and your hearts this Christmas. I pray that the joy of the shepherds and the adoration of the Magi find a permanent dwelling place in your lives throughout the coming year.

May Almighty God Bless you all.

Wishing you a blessed and Holy Christmas.

Lots of Love

Fr Rob.



Parish News

Please send any information you would like to be included in parish news to the parish office by Tuesday lunch time for consideration. Thank you

Meeting with Bishop Phillip.

Last week, the Bishop invited anyone who feels the Lord may be calling them to the priesthood, or who would like to find out more, to meet with him on 4th January at Portsmouth Cathedral. If you are interested, please let Fr Rob know or contact the parish office in the next few days.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who assisted in getting our Churches ready for Christmas. For all the cleaning and polishing that was done. For the cleaning of the altar linen. For the flower arranges. For those who put the cribs up and assembled and decorated our Christmas trees. A special thank you to all who changed the broken light bulbs in St Joseph. Thank you to you all for preparing our parish for our Christmas celebrations.

Christmas Collection:

This time of year gives us a special opportunity to say thank you to Fr Rob for all the wonderful work he has done in our parish. We are deeply grateful for his pastoral and spiritual care, and for the guidance and leadership he offers as we journey together toward a strong and hopeful future.

You can give via the parish collections, the Dona plate, or through the online giving website.

Sad Demise

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of David Rudd, who has been called home to the Lord.

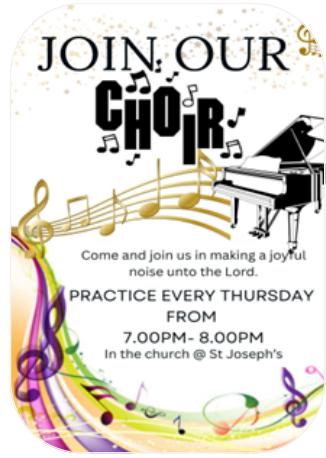
The Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated at St Joseph's on Tuesday 30th December 2025 at 11am. All faithful, relatives, and friends are invited to come together in prayer, commending his soul to God's mercy and offering comfort to the bereaved family.

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."



St Joseph's Parish Hall

Looking for a welcoming space for your next event or gathering? Our parish facilities are now available for hire. To make a booking, please contact the parish office or simply scan the QR code displayed on the notice boards in the church and hall to express your interest.



Join our parish choir and help enhance our liturgy through music ministry. New voices welcome, especially those who read music. Father Rob would love to meet you stop by after Mass, email the parish office, or chat with choir members. Rehearsals on Thursdays 7-8 pm in the church.



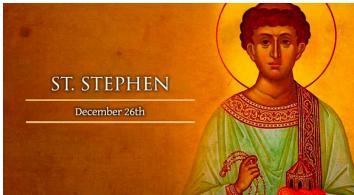
Food Bank

St Joseph's Parish supports the Community Grubhub in Aldershot. Please donate non-perishable items such as canned vegetables or fruit, pasta, rice, cereals, shampoo, washing powder, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Place donations in the boxes at the back of the churches and the Hall Entrance. Thank you for helping our community.

Tea & Coffee

Join us for tea and coffee in the hall after Mass — on Tuesdays and Thursdays following the 9:30 am Mass, and on Sundays after the 10:30 am Mass. It's a lovely opportunity to share a chat and some fellowship.

St. Stephen's Day, Mass for Alter Servers



December 26th commemorates the Feast of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr—often referred to as the protomartyr. Saint Stephen was one of the earliest deacons of the Christian Church, chosen for his faith, wisdom, and commitment to serving the poor. Around AD 34, he was stoned to death for boldly proclaiming his belief in Christ, becoming the first person to die for the Christian faith.

In the United Kingdom and much of the Commonwealth, December 26th is also known as Boxing Day, a name traditionally associated with acts of charity. Historically, alms boxes placed in churches were opened on this day, and gifts or leftover food from Christmas were distributed to the poor and to servants. This strong emphasis on generosity and service closely reflects Saint Stephen's own charitable work and legacy as a deacon.

Saint Stephen is recognized as the patron saint of deacons, bricklayers, stonemasons, coffin makers, horses, and even headaches, sometimes humorously invoked for relief from hangovers. His feast day serves as a reminder of the call to selfless service, compassion for those in need, and unwavering faith, making December 26th a day that blends solemn remembrance with traditions of generosity and goodwill following the celebration of Christmas.

Other News

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Aldershot

The admissions cycle for September 2026 is now open and closes on 15th January 2026. If you would like your child to receive an Outstanding (Ofsted February 2024) Catholic education, please apply to our welcoming and happy school. You will need to make an online application via your local authority and we request that you also complete our Supplementary Information form, a copy of which can be found [HERE](#). If you would like to visit the school, please call 01252 350583. We look forward to welcoming you to the St. Joseph's family.



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos. in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you, our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen

Free Christmas Lunch for over 60's at Harlow Hall Care Home

Dear Friends, Families and Acquaintances of Harlow Hall, With Christmas in the not so distant future, this can often be a lonely time of year, with the prospect of spending Christmas Day alone. Don't be lonely, come and join our warm and welcoming community at Harlow Hall Care Home. Meet new people and create memories to cherish all year round. Anyone spending Christmas alone, over the age of 60, please do get in touch and let us spread festive cheer to the wider community. Enjoy a delicious, home cooked 3-course lunch on Christmas Day, on us at Hartford Care. Please see the tempting menu attached to this email.

Limited places available - Call Natalie on 07880 367099 or email natalie.gosling@hartfordcare.co.uk for further information.

Parish Financial Support Sept & Oct First Collections	
TOTAL:	11,610.27
Contactless	1,610.65
Direct Debits	960
Plate and envelopes:	5,320.27
Standing Orders	3,719.35

SENSIBLE GIVING
Sign up today to make your donation worth 25% more with Gift Aid

STABLE GIVING
Set up a regular monthly donation through a Standing Order to support your parish

SERIOUS GIVING
Don't just give the leftovers to God... be generous in your giving

Most parishes aim to receive 75% of their income from monthly standing orders to give stability to parish collection income. Aldershot has a long way to go, and Fr. Rob will be working with us on this in the coming months.

Please support our parish by donating via standing order and signing up for gift aid. Forms are available at the table at the back of the church

Our parish bank details:
CDP Aldershot St Joseph
Sort Code: 30-93-04
Account No: 00873072

Please set up your standing order by contacting your bank yourself

Parish Priest: Fr Rob Stewart T: 01252 320956

Parish Administrator: Frances Grant T: 01252 320956,

E: office@aldershot-catholics.uk

Safeguarding Team:

Marian Momoh T: 07376 737 897

Michelle Berman T: 07908 101 487

E: safeguarding@aldershot-catholics.uk

Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Coordinator:

Ruth Attfield T: 023 9421 6486 E: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bookkeeper: Marianne Amano E: accounts@aldershot-catholics.uk

Gift Aid Officer: Jimmy Chung, E: giftaid@aldershot-catholics.uk

Parish website

Our website has changed - we're now part of the diocese's site. Weekly newsletters are uploaded there. Thanks to our volunteer managing this. The site is being refreshed, but you can download newsletters from: St Joseph's & St Mary's Aldershot, [St Joseph's & St Mary's Aldershot - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#).

Lots more information about what's on in the Diocese from [e-News - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#)

Schools

St Joseph's Primary Academy

Bridge Road, Aldershot GU11 3DD

T: 01252 350583 E: admin@stjosephs.hants.sch.uk

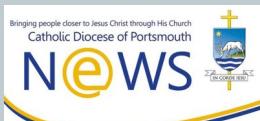
All Hallows Catholic School

Weybourne Road, Farnham GU9 9HF

T: 01252 319211 E: admin@allhallows.net

If you are unwell, can't come to Mass and would like to receive the Sacraments at home, contact Fr Rob

If you are going into hospital, please get in touch with the relevant chaplaincy service:
Frimley Park Hospital, Portsmouth Road,
Frimley GU16 7UJ T: 0300 6134184



Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. Charity no 1199568)
Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church"