



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



Mass Times

**2ND COLLECTION
17TH MAY 2026
CATHOLICS COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK**

Mass Intentions

Request Mass Intentions at the Parish Office 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.

Confession

On Saturday, St Joseph's 11-11.45am & St Mary's 4.45 - 5.15pm. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office on 01252 320956 to arrange a time convenient for you.

**First Saturday Devotion.
6th June 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.

Votive Candles

Please note that due to the money boxes for the votive candles being broken into, a dedicated tab has been created on the payment/donation machine at the back of the church for candle payments.

6th Sunday of Easter

Sat	9th	StM	5.30pm		
Sun	10th	StJ	9.00am		
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish
Mon	11th	StM	9.30am	6th Week	
Tues	12th	StJ	9.30am	6th Week	
Wed	13th	StM	9.30am	Our Lady of Fatima	
		StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	14th	StJ	9.30am	The Asencion of the Lord	
Fri	15th			NO MASS	
Sat	16th	StJ	12.00pm		

7th Sunday of Easter

Sat	16th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	17th	StJ	9.00am		Marie Hrabcakova
		StJ	10.30am		



The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-21

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

These words of Jesus can be heard differently, depending on the one who hears them. They can be heard as dictatorial, a command that is imposed on us by a greater force. Another impingement on our lives, another rule just to add to the list, another hoop to jump through or even in some cases it can be seen as a subtle threat. When something in the world is commanded it is done irrespective of the individual perception or personal opinion. In all these potential variants the premise of Jesus statement is If you love me. Jesus isn't setting a trap. He is describing a reality. Of course, if we Love Him, Our God then we do His will.

In the Upper Room, Jesus is preparing his friends for his departure. He knows they are about to feel orphaned, scattered, and afraid. In this tender moment, he isn't giving them more "work" to do; he is giving them a way to stay connected to him when he is no longer physically standing in front of them.

To love Jesus is to desire what he desires. His "commandments" aren't arbitrary laws; they are the rhythm of his own heart. When he tells us to love one another, to forgive, and to seek the lost, he isn't just giving us a job description. He is inviting us into his very life. The "keeping" of the commandments is simply what happens when his love takes root in us. It is the fruit, not the price, of our relationship with him.

However, Jesus knows our weakness. He knows that on our own, we cannot maintain this kind of love. Our willpower is flickering and our hearts are often divided.

This is why he promises the Advocate—the Paraclete.

In the original Greek, this word literally means "one called alongside." It was a term used for a legal advocate or a helper who stands by you in a time of trial. Jesus calls him "another" Advocate, because Jesus himself was the first. He is promising that even when he ascends, the presence of God will not leave us. It will simply change its mode of operation.

The Holy Spirit is not a ghost or a vague "vibe." The Spirit is the living breath of God that dwells within us. While the world "neither sees nor knows him," we are called to a different kind of sight. We recognize the Spirit in the moments we find the strength to forgive someone who doesn't deserve it. We see the Spirit when we feel a sudden tug of compassion for a stranger. We know the Spirit is at work when, in the midst of a dark night of the soul, a quiet peace settles over us that makes no earthly sense.

"I will not leave you orphans," Jesus says. This is one of the most beautiful promises in all of Scripture. An orphan is someone who has no one to claim them, no one to protect them, and no identity rooted in a family. In a world that often feels cold and transactional, it is easy to feel like spiritual orphans.

But through the Spirit, we are claimed. We are part of a divine family. Because he lives, we live.

As we move through this sixth week of Easter, I invite you to stop trying so hard to "obey" out of duty. Instead, ask the Holy Spirit to expand your love. Spend a few moments in silence this week and simply acknowledge the Advocate who is already "alongside" you.

We are not alone. We are not forgotten. Most of all we are completely known. We are loved with a love that keeps us, holds us, and empowers us to live as he lived.

With 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

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors who join us for all our masses.

Join us for tea and coffee and a friendly chat in the hall after Mass.

Tuesdays and Thursdays after the 9:30 am Mass, and Sundays after the 10:30 am Mass.

Loving Concern

Firstly an apology for the masses last Sunday, as they were some what curtailed. It is certainly the only time I have not preached at a Sunday Mass. I obviously caught a little virus, which seemed to be an aggressive short lived 40 hour thing. Unfortunately Sunday morning was not a great time for it to happen. Thank you for all your concern, prayers, and well wishes.

Mass of celebration

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 20th June at 11am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please contact your parish secretary if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to Kirsten McGuire(kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk), in Bishop's Office. Thank you.

Repairing damage

I have been reliably informed that the damaged caused to the altar in St Joseph's is repairable. This is a great relief. Expenses should be paid by insurance. A claim was submitted this week. St Joseph's may have to be closed while repairs take place, it could take up to three days to complete. The Sacristy door is repaired so we should be able to re open St Joseph's during the daytime for our town. I have also made some preliminary enquiries into installing cameras in St Joseph's.

Food Bank

St Joseph's Parish supports the Aldershot Community Grubhub. Please donate non-perishable food and essential items (food, toiletries, household basics). Donation boxes are at the back of the churches and in the Hall entrance. Thank you for supporting our local community.

Retrouvaille Marriage Support

If you are just in a rut or for more serious issues Retrouvaille could be the solution. www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

Other News

Foundation Governors

Are you interested in becoming a vital part of the life of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School as a school foundation governor? It is an extremely rewarding position and enables you to play an important voluntary role in preserving the school's Catholic ethos, excellent reputation and outstanding results. We are currently looking to recruit Foundation Governors to join our Local Governing Body. Worried about the time commitment?

There are 3 meetings a year, each lasting approximately 2 hours (via teams) in the early evenings with additional opportunities to be part of other committees if you would like to be.

If you are interested in joining the Local Governing Body of our school or would like to know more, please contact Mrs Zoe Lowe – z.lowe@st-josephs.hants.sch.uk, Clerk to the Governors, who will arrange for you to have an informal meeting with the Headteacher, Mrs McNeill or one of our current governors. Please also feel free to contact the school should you have any questions

Farnborough Abbey Pilgrimage: On Saturday 16th May

The St Edmund Champion Relic Pilgrimage will be at St Michael's Abbey Farnborough GU14 7NQ. Please come after 11.30am for Mass at 12 noon, followed by veneration of the Relic. At 1pm there will be a rosary procession, and then an opportunity for lunch. If you wish you can stay for a tour of the Abbey and its crypt by the Benedictine Monks. Please do join this event organised by the Farnborough Knights.

Stella Maris Mass

Monday 8 June 2026 at 12.15pm: the Stella Maris Mass for seafarers and fishers in St John's Catholic Cathedral, Portsmouth, followed by light refreshments. Please confirm your attendance by emailing roland.hayes@stellamarisemail.org by Tuesday 28 May 2026.

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

Parish Financial Support April First Collections

TOTAL:	5,534.98
Contactless	726.06
Direct Debits	480.00
Plate and envelopes:	1,782.92
Standing Orders	2,546.00

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
Bookkeeper: Marianne Amano E: accounts@aldershot-catholics.uk
Gift Aid Officer: Jimmy Chung, E: giftaid@aldershot-catholics.uk
Safeguarding Team: Michelle Berman T: 07908 101 487
Marian Momoh T: 07376 737 897
E: safeguarding@aldershot-catholics.uk
Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Coordinator:
Ruth Attfield T: 023 9421 6486 E: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We need to raise much-needed funds to help maintain our parish churches of St Joseph's and St Mary's, along with the hall and presbytery, where several repairs are needed.

In addition to donations, Gift Aid, and volunteering, you can support the parish through your everyday online shopping. Give as you Live Online allows you to raise free donations for the Aldershot Catholic Community when you shop with over 6,000 retailers, at no extra cost to you.

Simply sign up for free, choose Aldershot Catholic Community, and shop as normal via the app, website, or browser reminder. Supporters have already raised over £3,200 for our parish.

Visit www.giveasyoulive.com/join search online for Give as you Live, or scan the QR code on the leaflets available after Mass.

Aldershot Catholic Community logo and Give as you Live Online logo.

Generate free donations for us at over 6,000 online stores. It's completely free thanks to our partner, Give as you Live Online!

Simply scan the QR Code with your mobile phone to sign up for free!
Just some of the 6,000 stores paying free donations:

M&S, Booking.com, ebay, Expedia, Breeze, trainline, ASOS, Argos

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

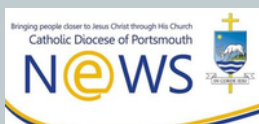
If you are unwell, can't come to Mass and would like to receive the Sacraments at home, contact Fr Rob

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

Parish website

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](#)



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