



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

Corpus Christi

2ND COLLECTION
21ST JUNE 2026
DAY FOR LIFE

Mass Intentions

Request via the parish office phone or email: office@aldershot-catholics.uk. Mass intentions traditionally support the parish priest's income.

Sat	6th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	7th	StJ	9.00am		John Francis Kirwin PM FM
		StJ	10.30am		Esmund Barros

Sat	13th	StJ	12.00pm		
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11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	13th	StM	5.30pm		Mary & Dennis McCarthy RIP
Sun	14th	StJ	9.00am		People of the Parish
		StJ	10.30am		Angela Vickers TG
Mon	15th	StM	9.30am	Feria	
Tues	16th	StJ	9.30am	St Richard of Chichester	
Wed	17th	StM	9.30am	Feria	Johnny Collins
		StJ	7.00pm	NO HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	18th	StJ	9.30am	Feria	Doreen King RIP
Fri	19th				
Sat	20th	StJ	12.00pm		

Monday 8th to Friday 12th June
Fr Rob on Retreat
NO MASS

Confession

Saturday: St Joseph's 11–11.45am
St Mary's 4.45–5.15pm Or contact the parish office on 01252 320956 to arrange a convenient time.

First Saturday Devotion.
4th July 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.

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	20th	StM	5.30pm		James O'Donnell RIP FM
Sun	21st	StJ	9.00am		
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish



Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi—the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This feast day is a profound, supernatural gift. It allows us to pause, step back from the frantic pace of the world, and look with absolute wonder at the mystery of the altar. Every single Sunday, the bread and wine we bring forward truly become the living Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. Because human eyes can only see the outward appearance of bread and wine, it is easy for our hearts to slip into routine. We can treat this radical miracle as a mere habit, forgetting the cosmic reality taking place right before us. Unfortunately, many professed Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence. From the outset it has been a mystery many have struggled with.

When faith wavers, God breaks through our blindness with extraordinary signs. To appreciate this feast day, we must travel back to the year 1263, to a small Italian town called Bolsena. There, a German priest named Father Peter of Prague was making a pilgrimage to Rome. Father Peter was a holy man, but he was suffering through a dark night of the soul. He was tormented by a terrible, silent doubt that plagues many Christians: Is Jesus truly present in the Eucharist, or is it just a symbol? One morning, while celebrating Mass at the tomb of Saint Cristina in Bolsena, those doubts reached a painful peak. Father Peter raised his hands, spoke the solemn words of consecration, and elevated the Host. At that exact moment, a miraculous event occurred. The Host in his hands suddenly became heavy with real flesh. Living blood began to seep from the miraculous bread, trickling down over his fingers and onto the linen altar cloth, known as the corporal. The blood trickled so heavily that it completely soaked the linen, leaving eighty-five distinct stains—some of which miraculously mirror the traditional profile of the face of Christ. The fluid even dripped past the cloth, landing on the marble floor and deeply penetrating the solid stone. Terrified, Father Peter tried to hide the blood. He quickly wrapped the Host in the corporal, but the crimson stains soaked through the layers of fabric. He cut the Mass short and rushed to the nearby city of Orvieto, where Pope Urban IV was residing. The Holy Father immediately ordered an investigation. When the blood-stained linens were brought to Orvieto, the Pope knelt in adoration. He recognized that this miracle was a direct message from God to a doubting world. A year later, in August 1264, Pope Urban IV published the papal bull *Transiturus de hoc mundo*. This decree established the feast of Corpus Christi for the universal Church, ensuring that the entire world would annually celebrate this ultimate gift of love.

Over the centuries, human scepticism has tried to explain away this divine intervention. In the 1990s, critics theorized that the red stains were not blood at all, but rather an infestation of a bacterium called *Serratia marcescens*. This microbe thrives on damp, starchy bread in warm climates and produces a vibrant red pigment that looks remarkably like blood. However, the Church does not fear the truth, and in 2015, scientific experts were granted access to the corporal for rigorous laboratory analysis. The results completely debunked the bacterial theory. Modern testing definitively proved that the reddish-brown spots are genuine human blood, and advanced textile analysis confirmed that the flax material and weave of the cloth match authentic thirteenth-century altar linens.

Today, these physical reminders of God's love remain intact for us to witness. If you travel to the magnificent Duomo di Orvieto, you can stand inside the Chapel of the Corporal, where the sacred linen is preserved inside a jewel-encrusted silver reliquary. In Bolsena, at the Basilica of Saint Cristina, pilgrims still venerate the very marble stones pierced by the precious blood. The bleeding Host of Bolsena is a direct message to every single soul sitting in these pews today. Like Father Peter, how many of us walk up this aisle to receive Holy Communion while our minds are completely elsewhere? How many of us stretch out our hands out of mere routine, thinking about our schedules, our grocery lists, or our Sunday lunch?

The Miracle of Bolsena reminds us that what happens on this altar is real. It is a collision of heaven and earth. Through transubstantiation, the substance of bread and wine changes entirely. Under the appearance of bread is the very same Heart that stopped beating on the Cross at Calvary and started beating again on Easter Sunday.

If we truly understood this altar, we would enter this church on our knees. The miracle happened because God pitied a doubting priest. Today, He pities our distractions, our spiritual dryness, and our weak faith. He uses this feast day to wake us from our spiritual slumber.

As we prepare to receive our Lord today, let us ask Him to renew our sense of awe. Let us pray for the grace to see with the eyes of faith. When you look at the elevated Host today, whisper in the silence of your heart the words of Saint Thomas: "My Lord and my God!" Let us receive Him with clean hearts, deep reverence, and overwhelming gratitude.

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 warmly welcome all visitors joining us for Mass today. We hope you feel at home in our parish community and pray that your time with us may be a blessing.

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.

OUR NEXT 2ND COLLECTION

28TH JUNE 2026

PETERS PENCE

Father's Retreat

Father will be away from 8th to 12th June while attending a retreat. Therefore, there will be no morning Masses during that week.

Please keep Father in your prayers during his time of retreat.

Votive Candles

The votive candle money boxes have been repaired. Alternatively, payments can be made via the donation machine at the back of the church.

Encyclical Letter of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV,

Please find the Encyclical Letter of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, Magnifica Humanitas, on the safeguarding of the human person in the age of artificial intelligence here: <https://e.va/magnificahumanitas/>

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.

Could You Help Someone Feel at Home?

A smile. A welcome. A short conversation.

Sometimes that's all it takes to help someone feel seen, return to church, find friendship, or even begin a journey of faith. Every week people come through the doors of St Mary's and St Joseph's who are new, returning to church after many years, visiting the area, or simply looking for a place to belong. We want to ensure that nobody comes to Mass feeling unnoticed, uncertain, or alone.

Over the coming months we will be launching a simple Welcome Team and are looking for warm, approachable people who would enjoy helping others feel at home in our parish.

No special experience is needed, and there is no commitment at this stage—just an opportunity to find out more.

As well as helping others, many people find that serving in this way deepens their own sense of belonging, builds new friendships, and connects them more deeply to parish life.

If this might be something you'd like to explore, please email Jason Swan Clark at clark.jason@me.com.

I will also be sharing more about the Welcome Team at all Masses in the coming weeks, with an opportunity to speak with me in person afterwards.

Other News

Discovering Chesterton

The Discovering Chesterton Conference will take place in London on Saturday 13th June. Learn about the life and work of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, Catholic journalist, novelist, essayist, apologist, lecturer, playwright, poet, beloved husband, friend, adoptive uncle, and even potential saint at this one-day conference. Booking Required Ticket Price: £15. To book, email catholicgkcsociety@yahoo.co.uk or Tel, 07795205114. Light Lunch provided! www.catholicgkchestertonsociety.co.uk

Confirmation and RCIA Photos

Please find below the link to the official Confirmation photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/WpYEoSFnSEVsAMHWA>

The Cathedral has also published the RCIA Rite of Election photos on their website: <https://portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/2026riteofelection/index.php>

First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting

The next meeting for the First Holy Communion Programme will take place on Saturday 14th at 3:00pm in the hall.

As this is an important part of the programme, we ask that all parents attend. We look forward to welcoming you.

Friends of the Holy Land

Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for £251.22 raised for Christians in the Holy Land, at a time when they are most vulnerable. Please continue to remember our work in your prayers, giving our brothers and sisters strength to continue.'

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.

School of Synodality

Saturday 27 June 2026: Online retreat with School of Synodality [Click her for Information on how to attend](#)

Salesian College Year 5 Taster Day

Are you curious about what secondary school is really like? Come and spend an exciting day at Salesian College and get a taste of the fun, learning, and adventure that awaits you! Our Year 5 Taster Day is designed especially for Year 5 boys who want to explore new subjects, try out hands-on activities, and enjoy a great day in a brand-new school environment. You'll take part in sample lessons, join in games, meet new friends, and enjoy a delicious hot lunch in our dining hall. Monday 29 June 2026, 8:45 AM – 3:00 PM. Come ready to learn, laugh, and discover what makes Salesian College such a special place. We can't wait to welcome you! To book your place click [here](#)

Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 21st - 28th August 2026

See promotional poster on noticeboard for further details. Come in procession and respond to Our Lady's son to love God and love our neighbours as ourselves. Contact: frances@catholicassociation.co.uk

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@stellamarismail.org by Tuesday 28 May 2026.

CURRENT JOB VACANCIES

Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

- Fundraising Officer (Maternity Cover)
- Cleaner, Reading
- Parish Administrator, Basingstoke
- Organist, Winchester
- Cleaner, Farnborough
- Hall Cleaner, Andover
- Parish Finance Administrator, Andover
- Parish Administrator, Andover

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

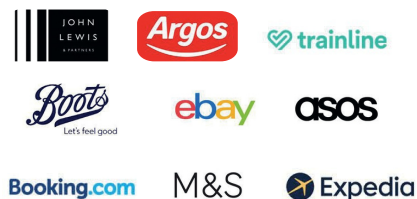
Most parishes aim for 75% of income via standing orders – Aldershot isn't there yet. Please help by setting up a standing order (contact your bank directly) and signing up for Gift Aid. Forms are at the back of the church.

Our details: CDP Aldershot St Joseph
Sort Code:30-93-04 | AccountNo: 00873072

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

Fundraising for St Joseph's & St Mary's

Our churches, hall, and presbytery need repairs please help us raise funds through any of the following: Donations & Gift Aid forms at the back of the church Give as You Live shop online with 6,000+ retailers and raise free donations at no cost to you. Supporters have already raised over £3,200 for our parish. Sign up free by scanning the QR code on leaflets available after Mass, visiting www.giveasyoulive.com/join, or searching "Give as You Live." Just some of the 6,000+ stores include:



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](#)

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

Hospital & Home Visits

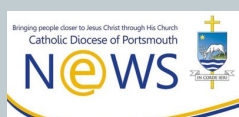
Going into hospital? Contact Frimley Park Hospital chaplaincy: 0300 613 4184
 Unwell and unable to attend Mass? Contact Fr Rob to receive the Sacraments at home.

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



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