



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
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.

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.

Votive Candles

Please note that not all of the votive candle money boxes at St Joseph's are currently are not all operational. The boxes that have been repaired remain available for use the two one located at the back of the church in front of the Statue of Jesus, and chapel at the back of the church are non operational. At St Mary's, the votive candle money boxes are currently unavailable. Until repaired, parishioners are asked to use the payment machine when making offerings for votive candles.

11th 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
Mon	22nd	StM	9.30am	Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	
Tues	23rd	StJ	9.30am	St Etheldreda	Benidicta Erhabor TG
Wed	24th	StM	9.30am	The Nativity of John the Baptist	Johny Collins
		StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	25th	StJ		NO MASS	
Fri	26th			NO MASS	
Sat	27th	StJ	12.00pm		

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	27th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	28th	StJ	9.00am		
		StJ	10.30am		Wladzia Skorka RIP



Every Sunday, we come together to worship in God in the manner he has asked us to. You sit and face the altar. After receiving the gifts of bread and wine, you see me wash my hands, elevate the gifts, and bow low. But what truly happens in those most sacred moments? As your priest, I want to pull back the veil on the central mystery of our faith: the Eucharistic Prayer. Many of our children are preparing to receive the Lord for the first time. I thought now would be a good time to remind and refresh.

The Second Vatican Council beautifully taught that the Holy Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life." Everything we do as Catholics flows from the altar, and everything we hope to achieve climbs back up to it. The Eucharist is not a mere symbol. It is not a weekly dramatization of a historical event. It is a living, breathing encounter with the Living God. At the very heart of this encounter is the Eucharistic Prayer, which makes present to us the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When I stand at the altar and begin the Preface, (the Lord be with you, lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God)we enter into timelessness. We leave the noise of the world behind and join our voices with the angels and saints, singing, "Holy, Holy, Holy." Then comes the Epiclesis, the moment I extend my hands over the bread and wine, calling down the Holy Spirit.

Shortly after, we enter the Narrative of Institution and Consecration. When I speak the words of Christ—"This is my Body... This is the chalice of my Blood"—I do not speak them in my own name. I speak them in persona Christi (in the person of Christ). In that precise moment, the fabric of time bends. We are no longer just sitting in our parish church. We are standing at the foot of Calvary.

The Eucharistic Prayer re-presents the Paschal Mystery. Notice I said re-presents, not recreates. Christ died once and for all on the cross two thousand years ago; He does not die again at every Mass. Instead, the liturgy makes that one, perfect, eternal sacrifice present to us here and now.

When the host is elevated, you see the Passion. You see Christ offering His body to be broken for your transgressions. When the chalice is elevated, you see His Death. His blood is poured out for the remission of your sins. The separate consecration of the bread and the wine represents the separation of body and blood, which is the very definition of physical death. But the prayer does not end in the tomb. Immediately after the consecration, we proclaim the Mystery of Faith: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again."

Following this, I pray the Anamnesis, the prayer of remembrance. Here, the Church explicitly offers the sacrifice of the resurrected and ascended Christ to the Father. When you see the host broken and placed back onto the paten, and when you finally receive Holy Communion, you are receiving the Risen Christ. You cannot consume a corpse; you consume the living, glorified Jesus who conquered death. The Resurrection is fully alive on the altar. This is why the Eucharist is our source and summit. It is the "source" because it gives us the supernatural grace to love, forgive, and endure our daily trials. We cannot live a holy life on our own strength. We need the divine fuel that only Christ's body and blood can provide.

It is the "summit" because there is no higher point of intimacy with God on this earth. When you receive the Eucharist, the Creator of the universe dwells inside you. Your flesh touches His flesh. Your soul aligns with His soul. It is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

My prayer for you is that you never look at the Mass the same way again. Do not let routine blind you to the miracle on the altar. When you hear the words of the Eucharistic Prayer, offer your own hidden suffering, your joys, and your daily sacrifices along with the bread and wine. Let yourself be broken and poured out with Jesus.

Step up to the altar with fear, trembling, and immense joy. The cross is empty, the tomb is conquered, and Jesus is truly present among us.

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.

**2ND COLLECTION
28TH JUNE 2026
PETERS PENCE**

Morning Mass – Thursday 25th

Father will be attending a clergy training day on Thursday 25th. Therefore, there will be no morning Mass on that day.

First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting

The next meeting for the First Holy Communion Programme will take place on Sunday 28th June 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.

Father Away

Please note that Father will be away on the following dates:

13th–15th July

25th–31st July

There will be no weekday Masses during these periods.

Church Repairs

As you are aware, due to the unfortunate fire at the sanctuary, restoration work will soon begin. The sanctuary will be redecorated, and repairs to the altar will also be carried out shortly. We will keep you posted throughout the various stages of the repairs and restoration. Thank you for your patience, support, and understanding during this time.

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/>

Who are the 8 women Leo selected to figure in his encyclical?

In Magnifica Humanitas, Pope Leo XIV highlights eight women from faith, science, education, and politics as examples of courage, service, and human dignity. Their lives remind us not to lose sight of our humanity in a world increasingly shaped by technology and efficiency.



Ai-generated and colorized image shows (from top left) Dorothy Day, Marie Curie, Mother Teresa, Benazir Bhutto, Wangari Maathai, and from bottom left, Laura Montoya, Elisabeth Elliot, and Maria Montessori.

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.

Mass of celebration

A Mass of Celebration for Wedding Anniversaries, presided over by Bishop Philip, will take place on Saturday 20th June at 11am at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. This celebration is for couples marking their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or over 60th wedding anniversary. The Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch, and will be a joyful occasion to give thanks for the vocation of Marriage.

Stella Maris

Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is seeking one volunteer from this parish please to help with Sea Sunday (which falls on 11/12 July this year) in this parish. This is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families, and takes a second collection to support the work of Stella Maris. The volunteer will read out the appeal (which Stella Maris will provide) at the end of Masses that weekend. If you can kindly do this, please contact roland.hayes@stellamarismail.org

Loneliness Awareness Week 15-21 June

'Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty' - St Teresa of Calcutta

Consider how you can reach out to someone who might be struggling with loneliness today. Someone does not have to be on their own to be lonely. For ideas about how your parish might help, contact caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Other News



SALESIAN COLLEGE YEAR 5 TASTER DAY
 8.45am - 3.00pm Monday 29 June 2026

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!

For more details and book your place at this event please scan this QR Code:

www.salesiancollege.com

The only all boys school with a co-educational sixth form in the area

Celebrating 125 years 1901 - 2026

WeBelieve Festival at St Mary's College, Oscott. 24-27 July

An unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to grow in authentic community, and to encounter the transforming love of God.

<p>SENSIBLE GIVING</p> <p>Sign up today to make your donation worth 25% more with Gift Aid</p>	<p>STABLE GIVING</p> <p>Set up a regular monthly donation through a Standing Order to support your parish</p>	<p>SERIOUS GIVING</p> <p>Don't just give the leftovers to God... be generous in your giving</p>
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Parish Financial Support May First Collections	
TOTAL:	7,714.29
Contactless	2,585.35
Direct Debits	480.00
Plate and envelopes:	2,201.14
Standing Orders	2,447.80

Food Bank

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

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

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

A Day with Mary

BA Day with Mary will take place at Bournemouth Oratory, Richmond Hill, on Saturday 18th July 2026. Please see the poster at the back of the church for further details.

CURRENT JOB VACANCIES

Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

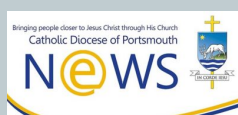
- Organist, Winchester
- Hall Cleaner, Andover
- Parish Finance Administrator, Andover
- Parish Administrator, Andover
- Warehouse Manager, Andover Foodbank
- Office Manager, Winchester
- Receptionist, Winchester

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 | Account No: 00873072

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:



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