



St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot
GU11 3JB

St Mary's
Belle Vue Road Aldershot
GU12 4RX

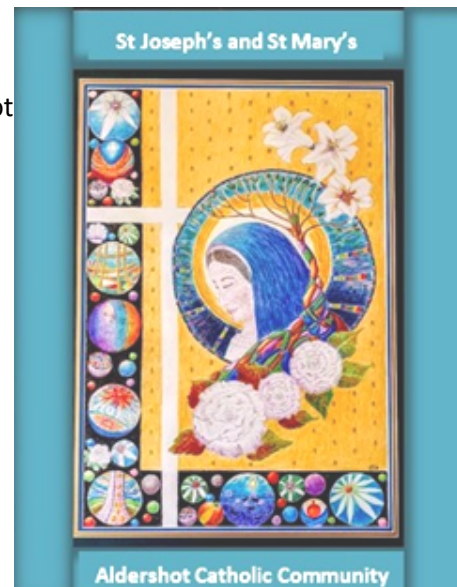
T: 01252 320956
E: office@aldershot-catholics.uk
W: www.aldershot-catholics.uk
Facebook: /AldershotCatholics
Twitter/Instagram: @AldstCatholics

Office Opening Hours

Monday - 10am - 2.30pm

Wednesday 10am - 2.30pm

Thurs 10am - 2pm



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.

5th September 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 Candle Offerings

Some votive candle money boxes are

currently out of service. At St

Joseph's, the money box in the rear

chapel (in front of the statue of Jesus)

is unavailable. At St Mary's, all votive

candle money boxes are temporarily

out of service.

Until repairs are completed, please

use the contactless payment machine

for your votive candle offerings.

Mass Times

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	1st	StM	5.30pm		Princy Salem's TG
Sun	2nd	StJ	9.00am		Norbetta Rodrigues RIP
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish
Mon	3rd	StM	9.30am	Feria	Mcloughline Family INT
Tues	4th	StJ	9.30am	St John Vianney	Francis Doherty
Wed	5th	StM	9.30am	Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome	Teresa Vargas Lodonga RIP
		StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	6th	StJ	9.30am	The Transfiguration of the Lord	Francis Doherty
Fri	7th			NO MASS	
Sat	8th	StJ	12.00pm	St Dominic	Caitan Gracias RIP

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	8th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	9th	StJ	9.00am		Bernard Hill RIP
		StJ	10.30am		Venjamin DeSouza B'Day



In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar account of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes. Yes it is one of those accounts we have known since childhood but it is not just the historical account of Jesus and his miracles, I want to invite you to look closely at this miracle, not merely as an extraordinary historical event, but as a living blueprint for your daily walk of faith. Quite often we do not feel worthy enough or Holy enough. Quite often even spiritually we compare ourselves to other and focus on our shortcomings. This passage reveals a beautiful, challenging dynamic between human limitation and divine abundance of God, offering three distinct lessons that can transform how you live each day.

First, consider the context of this miracle. Jesus had just received the devastating news of the martyrdom of His cousin, John the Baptist. Matthew tells us that Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by Himself. He sought silence, grief, and prayer. Yet, the crowds discovered His location and followed Him on foot from the towns. When Jesus stepped ashore and saw the vast crowd, His reaction was not resentment or frustration at His interrupted mourning. Instead, He had compassion on them and cured their sick.

In your daily life, you routinely encounter interruptions. Your carefully planned schedules are disrupted by a sick child, a demanding colleague, or a neighbour or friend in need. The natural human response is often irritation. However, Jesus models a faith driven by compassion rather than convenience. Daily faith means viewing interruptions not as obstacles to your day, but as opportunities for ministry. It asks you to step out of your personal grief or fatigue to see the vulnerability of those around you. To be with the person God has put in front of you.

Second, look at the interaction between Jesus and His disciples as evening approached. The disciples saw a logistical nightmare. They noticed the late hour, the deserted place, and the hungry crowd. Their solution was practical and dismissive: "Send the crowds away." But Jesus gave them a shocking command: "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." The disciples immediately protested, pointing out their severe lack: "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

How often do you look at the problems in your family, your workplace, or the wider world or indeed our response to God and say, "I do not have enough"? You feel inadequate, lacking the patience, wisdom, knowledge or financial resources to make a difference. You want to send the problems away. Yet, Jesus issues the same command to you today: "Give them something yourselves." Faith does not wait for perfect conditions or unlimited resources. Faith begins by acknowledging your poverty and offering it to God anyway. The five loaves and two fish represent your small, daily efforts—a kind word, a moment of patient listening, or a small financial sacrifice, even when we respond to God whole heartedly, we are still limited.

Finally, notice what Jesus did with their meagre offering. He took the loaves and the fish, looked up to heaven, said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples. This fourfold action—taking, blessing, breaking, and giving—directly foreshadows the Holy Eucharist. When the disciples distributed the food, a miracle occurred in the sharing. Not only did everyone eat and find satisfaction, but they also picked up twelve wicker baskets full of fragments left over.

This is the core relevance for your daily life: when you place your small, broken efforts into the hands of Christ, He takes our yes, no matter how incomplete. He sanctifies them and multiplies them beyond your wildest imagination. Your job is not to feed the five thousand on your own; your job is simply to give Jesus your five loaves. He provides the multiplication.

As you go into this week, do not let fear or a sense of inadequacy stunt your charity. Bring your small offerings of love and service to the altar. Trust that Christ who satisfied the hungry crowd in the wilderness is ready to multiply your daily acts of faith to satisfy a world hungry for His grace.

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.**

Parish Office Communications

We would like to apologise to everyone who has experienced difficulties contacting the parish office recently. Due to an ongoing fault with our telephone line, we have been unable to receive some phone calls, and the associated internet issues have also affected our ability to send and receive emails. We are sorry to anyone who tried to contact us but was unable to get through, and to those whom we have been unable to contact in return.

Although BT assured us that the fault had been repaired, we have continued to experience the same intermittent problems, and the matter is currently under review.

Should these issues occur again, please be assured that any delay in responding to your phone calls or emails is due to these ongoing technical difficulties and not because your messages are being ignored. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and continued support while we work with BT to resolve the problem fully.

Parish Repository

Visit the Repository after Mass and browse our selection of books, rosaries, medals, candles, prayer cards, and other devotional gifts. Every purchase supports our parish while helping to deepen your faith.

Featured this month:

A Simple Prayer Book A pocket-sized collection of traditional Catholic prayers for everyday use an ideal companion for home, work, or travel.



Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly

A bestselling book that invites you to encounter Jesus in a fresh way and discover the joy of becoming the person God created you to be.

The Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of mercy and compassion, revealing Christ's love for all, especially the poor, the forgotten, and the lost. Ideal for prayer, reflection, or daily reading.

Gift Aid – Help Your Donation Go Further

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a simple way to increase the value of your donations to the parish at no extra cost to you. Because your donation has already been taxed, the Church can reclaim this tax from the Government, adding an extra 25p for every £1 you give.

This additional income makes a real difference and helps support the work and mission of our parish. There are potentially thousands of pounds that could be reclaimed each year, providing much-needed funds for our parish community.

At present, just over 60% of eligible parishioners have completed a Gift Aid declaration. If you pay tax and have not yet signed up, please consider completing a form, available at the back of both churches, or speak to someone for advice if you are unsure.

If you make donations using the contactless giving machines, please remember to register your donation for Gift Aid on the device. If you need help, please ask. Alternatively, you can complete a Gift Aid declaration online by scanning the QR code.

Father Away

Please note that Father will be away from 10th to 17th August. Thank you to Father Jeremy Garrett who will celebrate the weekend Masses. There will be no morning mass from 10th - 14th August.

Our New Parish Website is Live

We are delighted to announce that our new parish website is now live! The website brings together Mass times, the weekly newsletter, parish news, upcoming events, sacramental information, and much more, making it easier to stay connected with the life of our parish. It has been designed to be easy to navigate and will be updated regularly with the latest information from St Joseph's and St Mary's. Our sincere thanks to Paul Salisbury, whose dedication, time, and hard work have made the new website possible. We are truly grateful for the many hours he has devoted to creating a site that will serve our parish community for years to come. Visit us at: www.aldershot-catholics.uk

Diocesan Catechist Day – Portsmouth Diocese

Saturday 10 October | 9:30am–1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke

Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. Inspired by Jesus' words, "Go therefore and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19), we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend. To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan, Formation for Mission Team Leader at ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth -
Gift Aid Declaration Form



Other News

Fanning the Flame Summer Camp 2026: Allegiance

From 17–21 August, young people will once again gather at St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury for the annual Fanning the Flame Summer Camp. This year's theme, "Allegiance," is based on Joshua 24:15: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

The camp offers an exciting week of worship, teaching, fellowship, fun activities, and opportunities to grow in faith together. Please do encourage any young people who may be interested to find out more and consider coming along for what promises to be a memorable and encouraging week.

General News

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

Parish Financial Support June First Collections	
TOTAL:	7,902.78
Contactless	1,391.50
Direct Debits	480.00
Plate and envelopes:	2,732.28
Standing Orders	3,299.00

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.

Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes,

The Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 21–28 August 2026. For further information, please see the promotional poster on the noticeboard or contact frances@catholicassociation.co.uk.

Retrouvaille

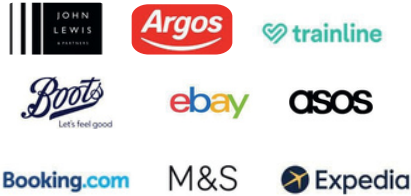
MARRIAGE IN A RUT? Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

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

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 <https://www.aldershot-catholics.uk/>
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"