



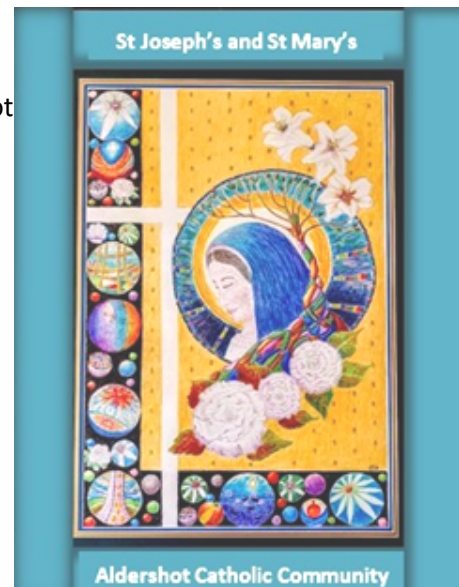
St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot GU11 3JB

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



2ND COLLECTION
12TH JULY 2026
STELLA MARIS

Mass Times
15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	11th	StM	5.30pm		
Sun	12th	StJ	9.00am		Canon Daniel O'Hanlon RIP FM
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish
Mon	13th			NO MASS	
Tues	14th			NO MASS	
Wed	15th			NO MASS	
	15th	StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	16th	StJ	9.30am	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Jonny Collins
Fri	17th			NO MASS	
Sat	18th	StJ	12.00pm	Our Lady on Saturday	Anna-Maria Izzo RIP

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	18th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	19th	StJ	9.00am		
		StJ	10.30am		Mary Driver RIP

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.

Mass Intentions

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

First Saturday Devotion.
1st August 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.



In today's beautiful Gospel passage, we see a picture of God's extraordinary, limitless love for every single one of us.

When we visualise, a farmer planting a field, we imagine someone careful, precise, and calculated. Fans of Clarkson's farm may recall the technology of GPS and automated robot that plants seeds every 15cm and plots on the GPS map exactly where each seed is. Yet, the Divine Sower in our Gospel scatters His seed everywhere, seemingly without regard for efficiency. He flings the precious seed of His Word onto the hardened public path, among the jagged rocks, straight into the choking thorns, and onto the rich, deep soil.

This extravagant wastefulness is actually a profound revelation of God's mercy. Our Heavenly Father does not look at us and measure our worthiness before offering His grace. He does not wait for us to become perfect before He speaks to our hearts. God sows His love universally, leaving no soul unsown, because He holds out radical hope for every one of His children.

However, Jesus shifts our attention from the generosity of the Sower to the disposition of the soil. The truth is that our hearts resemble different types of ground at different stages of our lives.

Sometimes, our hearts are like the path. Life's routine, cynicism, or hurts harden us. We sit in mass, we hear the readings, but the Word bounces off the surface. We leave Mass unchanged because we never allowed the message to penetrate our daily routine.

Other times, we are like the rocky ground. We experience a powerful retreat, a moving liturgical season, or a moment of deep conversion, and we spring up with sudden joy. But we fail to develop deep roots through daily prayer, the sacraments, and spiritual discipline. When a personal crisis or an unexpected storm hits, our shallow faith quickly withers away.

Most frequently in our modern world, we find ourselves wrestling with the thorns. Jesus explicitly defines these thorns as "worldly anxiety and the lure of riches". We live in a fast-paced, commercialised culture that constantly demands our attention. The anxieties of bills, status, career success, and digital distractions fill our schedules. We definitely do not reject God outright, but we do allow these heavy anxieties to choke out the time we should spend cultivating our relationship with Him.

But praise be to God, we are not stuck as bad soil! Unlike the literal dirt on a farm, human hearts can change by the power of God's grace. Even in this town of Aldershot, He sees you. If you recognise today that your heart is hardened, rocky, or crowded with thorns, do not despair. Bring your heart to the Lord in the offering of our gifts at this mass and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is the holy tilling of our souls, where God gently breaks up our hardened paths, removes our stones of resentment, and pulls out the thorns of worldly anxiety. Christ calls us to step out of the shadows of distraction and become the good soil. The rich soil belongs to the one who hears the Word, strives to understand it, and patiently puts it into practice. When we make space for quiet prayer, participate faithfully in the Holy Eucharist, and serve our neighbours, and earnestly seek to grow in our Knowledge of Him and His Church, the seed takes deep root.

The resulting harvest is entirely out of proportion to our small efforts. God promises a yield of thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold. This transformation will show up as profound peace, marital healing, patient parenting, and a joyous desire to witness to our neighbours about what we have learned.

Let us pray at this Mass for the grace to clear away our distractions. May we open our ears to truly hear, open our eyes to truly see, and offer our Lord an open, loving heart where His truth can bloom.

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.**



Stella Maris Sunday – 12 July

STELLA MARIS This weekend we celebrate Stella Maris Sunday, when we remember and pray for seafarers and fishers who spend many months each year away from their families, often working in difficult and isolated conditions. For more than 100 years, Stella Maris has been a "friend in every port," offering pastoral care, practical support, and a warm welcome through its network of chaplains and volunteers. Each year, they make over 70,000 ship visits, supporting hundreds of thousands of seafarers and fishers around the world. There will be a second collection after all Masses this weekend in support of the vital work of Stella Maris. Your generosity will help continue this important ministry of care and compassion. Thank you for your support and please remember seafarers, fishers, and their families in your prayers.

Parish Maintenance Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers with practical skills to help with occasional maintenance and repair work around the parish. We would particularly welcome those with experience in electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, general DIY, or handyman repairs. If you can offer some of your time and skills, please contact the parish office. Your help will make a valuable contribution to the care and upkeep of our parish facilities.

Gift Aid.

Gift Aid is the process through which our parish, as a registered charity, can claim additional money from the Government at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK taxpayer, every pound you donate has already been taxed. Because your offering is given to a charity, the Church can increase the value of your donation by 25% by claiming back the tax you have already paid. All it takes is a few minutes to complete a simple Gift Aid declaration. There are potentially thousands of pounds that our parish could claim back each year—funds that are urgently needed. To date, just over 60% of eligible parishioners have completed a Gift Aid form. If you pay tax, please complete a form, available at the back of each church, or ask for advice if you are unsure. If you make your donations using the contactless giving machine in either church, please remember to register your donation for Gift Aid on the device itself. If you are unsure how to do this, please ask for assistance. Alternatively, you can complete a Gift Aid declaration by scanning the QR code to complete the form online.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth -
Gift Aid Declaration Form



Father Away

Please note that Father is away this week. As a result, there will be no Mass on Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th.

Please note the next dates Father is away will be;
25th–31st July
There will be no weekday Masses during these periods.

First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting

The next meeting for the First Holy Communion Programme will take place today Sunday 12th July 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.

Change of Office Hours

Please note that from this week, the parish office hours will be changing. The office will now be open on Thursdays instead of Fridays.

Could You Help Someone Feel at Home?

A smile. A welcome. A short conversation.

Could You Help Welcome Others?

A warm welcome can make all the difference. Every week, new visitors, returning Catholics, and those seeking a place to belong join us at St Mary's and St Joseph's. We want everyone to feel at home.

Over the coming months, we will be launching a Welcome Team and are looking for friendly, approachable volunteers. No experience is needed, and there is no commitment at this stage—just an opportunity to find out more.

If you're interested, please email Jason Swan Clark at clark.jason@me.com. I will also be speaking about the Welcome Team at all Masses over the coming weeks, with an opportunity to ask questions afterwards.

From Pope Leo XIV

In his new Encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that every human person possesses an inalienable dignity that must always be respected and protected. As technology, including artificial intelligence, continues to shape our world, the Holy Father encourages us to ensure that innovation always serves the common good and never diminishes the value of the human person. He calls us to place compassion, truth, justice, and respect for life at the heart of every decision, recognising that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Let us pray that we may use the gifts of human creativity wisely, always promoting the dignity of every person and building a society rooted in faith, hope, and love.

Other News

World Day for Grandparents and Older People

On the weekend of 26th July we mark the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, established by Pope Francis to honour the invaluable gift of older people in our families, parish, and society. We give thanks for their faith, wisdom, and witness, and we remember especially those who are lonely, unwell, or unable to join us. Please keep all grandparents and elderly members of our community in your prayers, asking God's blessing, strength, and peace upon them. A resource pack for this year's celebration is available [here](#)

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

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

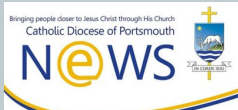
community grubhub Food Bank

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

WeBelieve Festival – 24–27 July

Join the WeBelieve Festival at St Mary's College, Oscott, for four days of faith, worship, inspiring speakers, fellowship, and celebration. It is an opportunity to deepen your faith, discover the richness of the Church's traditions and charisms, and encounter the transforming love of God in the beautiful setting of Oscott. [Ticket info](#)

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.

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:

