



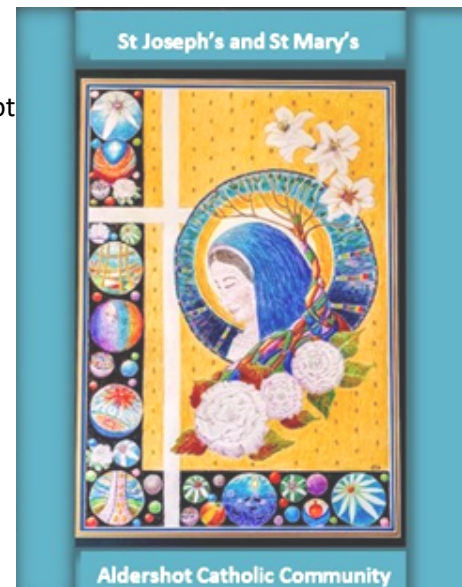
St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot
GU11 3JB

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.

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.

Mass Times

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	25th	StM	5.30pm		Mariah Gia Rebelo INT
Sun	26th	StJ	9.00am		People of the Parish
		StJ	10.30am		Janet McLoughlin
Mon	27th			NO MASS	
Tues	28th			NO MASS	
Wed	29th			NO MASS	
				NO HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	30th			NO MASS	
Fri	31st			NO MASS	
Sat	1st	StJ	12.00pm	St Alphonsus Liguori	Baptism Darnia

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



In the Gospel today at first glance, these parables speak of joy, discovery, and great value. The man who finds the hidden treasure sells everything he has out of sheer joy to buy that field. The merchant sells his entire stock, all he had invested in, just to own the one pearl of great price. Jesus is teaching us about the absolute supremacy of the Kingdom of God. Beyond Our comprehension, it is worth everything we have. It demands our total allegiance and dedication.

However, if we listen closely to the conclusion of this passage, the tone shifts dramatically. Jesus speaks of the end of the age. He describes angels separating the wicked from the righteous. He warns of the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

This stark imagery reminds us of a fundamental truth that our modern world often tries to make us forget we are at war. Every single day, a fierce spiritual warfare rages around us and within us. The Kingdom of God is a treasure, but it is a treasure under siege. The field where the treasure is buried is a battlefield. The moment we decide to pursue the pearl of great price; we become targets for the enemy of our souls.

Spiritual warfare is not a metaphor. It is the defining reality of the Christian life. The devil wants nothing more than to blind us to the value of the treasure. He wants us to believe that the field is empty, that the pearl is a fake, and that the net will never be pulled ashore. He tempts us to settle for less, the cheap, passing things of this world pride, lust, anger, greed, and complacency so that we abandon our search for the Kingdom. If you have wondered why your resolve often wains after deciding to do more along the lines of your faith. Take heart, trust, have courage.

To fight against sin is to engage in this warfare actively. We cannot afford to be passive spectators in our own salvation. Sin is not just a mistake or a minor flaw. Sin is a direct alignment with the kingdom of darkness. Every time we consent to sin, we willingly hand over a piece of our soul to the enemy. We tell Christ that His sacrifice on the Cross was not enough, and that we prefer the chains of our vices to the freedom of His grace.

How do we fight back? We fight by putting on the armour of God through a life of disciplined prayer, regular reception of the Sacraments, spiritual routine and daily self-denial. We must guard our senses, our minds, and our hearts from the toxic influences of a culture that glorifies selfishness and mocks holiness.

In this reality our human weakness means that we will sometimes stumble on this battlefield. We will fall. We will give in to temptation. A disciple of Christ is not defined by how many times they fall they are defined by how many times they get back up through the mercy of God.

This is why the spiritual weapons of repentance and forgiveness are so vital. Repentance is our counter-attack against the devil. When we confess our sins, we break the stronghold that Satan has over our lives. We bring our hidden darkness into the healing light of Jesus Christ.

I urge you, do not delay when it comes to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Do not let shame or fear keep you away from the confessional. Shame is one of the devil's favourite tools to keep you trapped in the mud, and it's a lie. God does not look at you with condemnation; He looks at you with the yearning heart of a Father who wants His child back in the fight. Think of the disposition of God the Father after the first sin. He cries out to Adam and Eve who are hiding in shame, due to the father of lies. Where are you?

When the net is pulled ashore at the end of time, where will we be? Will we be gathered among the good, or thrown away with the useless? The choice is ours, and we make that choice every single day through the decisions we choose, the sins we reject, the repentance we show and in this Gods mercy flows.

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Angels and our commander in this spiritual combat, to intercede for us. May we have the courage to sell everything that keeps us from Christ, the fortitude to fight against sin, and the humility to always seek His forgiveness.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for 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.**

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.

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

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.

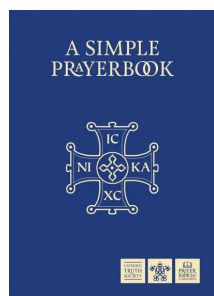
Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly

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.



Father Away

Please note that Father will be away from 25th July to 31st July. Thank you to Father Patrick Sherlock who will celebrate the weekend Masses. There will be no morning mass from 27th - 31st July

Please note the next dates Father is away will be; 10th - 17th August
There will be no weekday Masses during his period

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.

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.

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

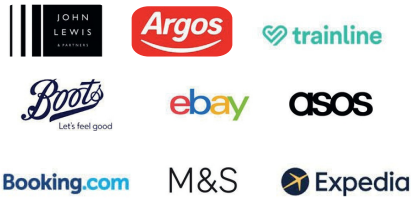
MARRIAGE IN A RUT? Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

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

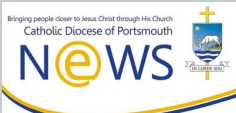
Our churches, hall, and presbytery need repairs please help us raise funds through any of the following: Donations & Gift Aid forms at the back of the church Give as You Live shop online with 6,000+ retailers and raise free donations at no cost to you. Supporters have already raised over £3,200 for our 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"