



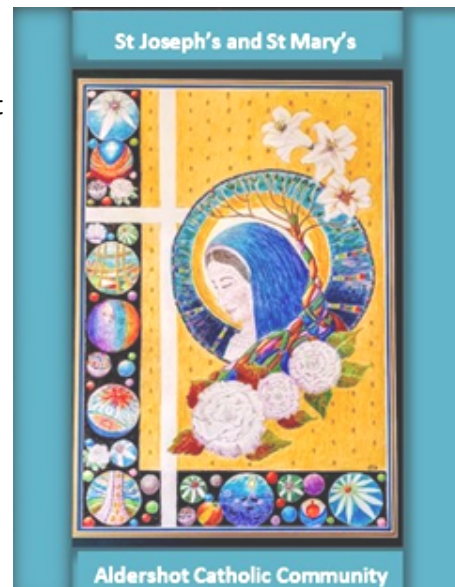
St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot
GU11 3JB

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.



Mass Times

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

Mon 10th to Friday 14th - No Mass

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat	15th	StM	5.30pm		Jock & Hazel Cook RIP
Sun	16th	StJ	9.00am		People of the Parish
		StJ	10.30am		Domenico Tamurrini RIP
Mon	17th	StM	9.30am	Feria	Georges Bonnelame
Tues	18th	StJ	9.30am	Feria	Aden Pereira BDAY
Wed	19th	StM	9.30am	Feria	Jonny Collins
	19th	StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	20th	StJ	9.30am	St Bernard	Rachel Gomes TG
Fri	21st		NO MASS		
Sat	22nd	StJ	12.00pm	The Queenship of Mary	Nathan Pinheiro

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	22nd	StM	5.30pm		Paul Debono RIP
Sun	23rd	StJ	9.00am		Wilbron & Venicia TG
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish

Today, the Holy Spirit invites us to step into the boat with the Apostles and look out across the stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee. In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 14, verses 22 through 33, we encounter one of the most vivid and deeply moving scenes in all of Sacred Scripture. It is an account that speaks directly to the reality of the human condition, our personal daily struggles, and the profound depth of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Let us first look at the context of this miraculous event. Jesus sends His disciples ahead of Him in the boat while He withdraws to the mountain to pray. As night falls, the boat is beaten by the waves, tossed about by a heavy headwind. How often does this describe our own lives? We frequently find ourselves in seasons where the wind is against us. We experience the sudden storms of unexpected illness, financial insecurity, broken relationships, or the quiet, gnawing anxiety of an uncertain future in our modern world. In those dark, exhausting hours, it can easily feel as though we are utterly alone, abandoned to the mercy of the waves. God can seem at these times distant and quiet.

Yet, it is precisely in the fourth watch of the night—the darkest hour just before dawn—that Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. When the disciples cry out in terror, thinking He is a ghost, Jesus immediately speaks those comforting words that echo down through the centuries to us today: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

This moment marks a pivotal shift from corporate fear to a deeply personal encounter, mediated through Saint Peter. Peter replies, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus gives a single, powerful invitation: "Come."

Notice what happens next. Peter steps out of the safety of the boat. To walk on water requires complete detachment from worldly security. It demands an absolute reliance on the word of God. For a few glorious moments, Peter does the impossible. He walks on the waves because his gaze is fixed entirely on the radiant face of Christ.

This is the blueprint for our personal relationship with Jesus. Our faith is not meant to be a stagnant doctrine that we safely observe from the sidelines or from the comfort of a secure boat. Jesus constantly calls us to step out into the unknown, to trust Him with our whole hearts, and to believe that His grace is greater than the chaotic forces of this world.

But Matthew's Gospel is beautiful because it is honest about our human weakness. The narrative tells us that when Peter noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" The moment Peter shifted his focus away from Jesus and onto the magnitude of the storm, gravity reclaimed its hold.

How often do we mirror Peter's stumble? We start a new spiritual practice, a new ministry, or a difficult season of life with great fervor. But then, we look at the overwhelming nature of our problems. We look at the cultural winds blowing against our faith, or the sheer weight of our personal sins, and we begin to sink under the pressure.

Yet, look at the immediate response of our Lord. Jesus did not wait for Peter to drown, nor did He lecture him from a distance on what he has done wrong. Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him. This is the heart of the Gospel. Our relationship with Jesus is not sustained by our own flawless strength, but by His infinite mercy. Even when our faith falters, His grip remains secure. When we cry out in our brokenness, "Lord, save me," He is there to lift us up.

As they climb back into the boat, the wind ceases, and the disciples fall to their knees in worship, proclaiming, "Truly, you are the Son of God." The storm served a divine purpose: it revealed the true identity of Jesus to those who loved Him. whatever storm you are facing this week, do not look at the waves. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Listen to His voice amidst the noise of the world, commanding you to have courage. Let us leave behind the false security of our comfort zones, step out in faith, and trust the outstretched hand of the One who rules the wind and the sea.

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.**

Father Away

Please note that Father will be away from 10th to 17th August.

There will be no weekday morning Masses from Monday 10th to Friday 14th August.

We are grateful to Father Jeremy Garrett, who will celebrate the weekend Masses during Father's absence.

Parish Office

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on 12th and 13th August. The office will reopen on 17th August.

The office will then be closed again from 19th August and reopen on 2nd September.

During these closure periods, you are welcome to send emails or leave telephone messages. These will be attended to upon Frances's return.

Thank you for your understanding.

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:

First Holy Communion Gift Sets
Celebrate this special sacrament with our thoughtfully curated First Holy Communion gift sets.

Each set includes meaningful keepsakes and devotional items, making them a cherished gift to mark this important milestone in a child's faith journey.

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

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.

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.

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

Saturday 17th October: Formation day for Readers (Winchester). Email the Liturgy team to book.

Saturday 31st October, 9:30am – 1:30pm: Portsmouth

Diocese Parish Evangelisation Cell Formation Day at Christ the King, Reading. To register and to get more information please click here, or email 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

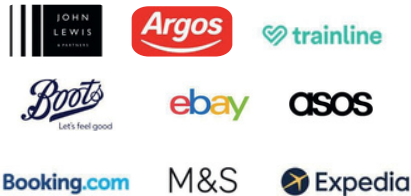
MARRIAGE IN A RUT? Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

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"