

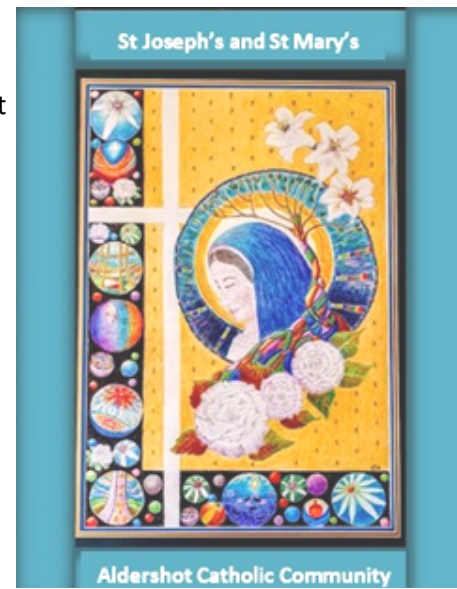


St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot
GU11 3JB

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 13TH SEPT 2026 CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICES

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 10 am
at St Joseph's during the first
Saturday prayers and readings.
Mass at noon, concluding with
final prayers at 11am
All are welcome.

Votive Candle Offerings

Some votive candle money boxes are
temporarily out of service.
Please use the contactless payment
machine for your votive candle
offerings until repairs are completed.
Thank you for your understanding.

Mass Times 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	12th	StM	5.30pm		Valsama Joseph RIP
Sun	13th	StJ	9.00am		Rocky&Natasha Britto TG
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish
Mon	14th	StM	9.30am	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Jonny Collins
Tues	15th	StJ	9.30am	Our Lady of Sarrows	T.V Joseph RIP
Wed	16th	StM	9.30am	St Cornelius,Pope, &Cyprian	Jonny Collins
		StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	17th	StJ	9.30am	St Hildegard of Bingen	Arida Gujao RIP
Fri	18th			NO MASS	
Sat	19th	StJ	12.00pm		Connolly Family PM FM

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	19th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	20th	StJ	9.00am		
		StJ	10.30am		Esmund Barros

MATTHEW 18:21-22

Lord, how many times
shall I forgive my brother
or sister who sins against
me? Up to seven times?

The Lord replied.

Not seven times I tell you,
but seventy times seven.

seventy times seven

70 x 7

Today, our Holy Gospel presents us with one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus. When Peter approaches Jesus and asks, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Peter likely thought he was being incredibly generous. In the rabbinic tradition of the time, forgiving someone three times was considered sufficient. By offering seven, Peter was doubling that and adding one. He was looking for a limit. He wanted a boundary where his obligation to love would comfortably end.

Jesus completely shatters Peter's human calculations. "I say to you," Jesus replies, "not seven times but seventy-seven times." In the language of Scripture, this is not a mathematical formula to reach four hundred and ninety before we can hold a grudge. It is an expression of infinity. Jesus is telling us that for the follower of Christ, forgiveness cannot have an expiration date.

To help us understand this radical demand, Jesus shares the parable of the unmerciful servant. We hear of a servant who owes his king an astronomical debt, ten thousand talents. In the ancient world, this was an impossible sum, equivalent to millions of lifetimes of work. The servant could never, ever repay it. Yet, when he falls to his knees and begs for time, the king is moved with profound compassion. He does not just grant an extension; he completely erases the debt.

What happens next is the tragedy of the human condition. The same servant goes out and finds a fellow servant who owes him a measly hundred denarii a few months' wages. A real debt, yes, but entirely manageable. Instead of extending the mercy he just received, he chokes his debtor and demands immediate payment. When the debtor cannot pay, he throws him into prison.

This parable uncovers a profound spiritual truth: our ability to forgive others is directly dependent on our awareness of how much we have been forgiven by God. The unmerciful servant failed because he walked out of the king's presence and immediately forgot the immense mercy that saved him.

We have all been wounded by someone. When we find our hearts hardening against someone who has hurt us, we must look first to the Cross. We must look at the immense debt of our own sins, our pride, our selfishness, our hidden faults that Christ willingly paid with His own blood for us. Every time we step into the Confessional, the heavenly King completely wipes our slate clean. When we truly comprehend the depth of God's mercy toward us, it changes our perspective. We realise that the offenses others commit against us, however painful, are small compared to the limitless ocean of God's mercy which He pours into our lives. Relying on God's mercy is not a sign of weakness; it is the vital fuel that empowers us to do what is humanly impossible.

However, let be brutally honest. Forgiveness is incredibly difficult. It is easy to talk about, but hard at times to practice, when the wounds are deep and fresh. That is why we must understand that forgiveness is both a decision and a process.

First, forgiveness is a decision. It is an act of the will, not an alignment of feelings. If you wait until you "feel" like forgiving someone, you may wait a lifetime. To forgive means making a conscious choice to release that person from the debt they owe you. It means letting the desire to seek revenge, to gossip about them, or to re-hash the injury in your mind. It is a decision to hand the situation over to God, the perfect Judge.

Second, forgiveness is a process. Making the decision to forgive does not mean the pain instantly vanishes. The emotional scar may remain for a long time. There will be mornings you wake up and the hurt returns, tempting you to take back your forgiveness. In those moments, you have not failed; you are simply experiencing the process. You must renew your decision. You must pray for that person again, even through clenched teeth, asking God to bless them and heal your heart. Even if it's more than Seven times.

As we prepare to receive the Holy Eucharist in this Mass, the ultimate sign of God's mercy let us bring before the altar the names of those we need to forgive. Let us ask for the grace to make the decision today, and the patience to walk through the process tomorrow.

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
20TH SEPT 2026
HOME MISSIONS**

Hedge cutting at St. Mary's

We are looking for volunteers to help with the hedge cutting at St Mary's at 10:00am on Saturday 12th September. If you can spare some time, please come along and help manage the grounds of your parish church. If you have any hedge cutting tools, ladders, etc, please bring them along.

We are also looking to dispose of the green waste, so if anybody has a van and is willing to book a slot at the waste disposal site at Ivy road on the same date, this would help dispose of the hedge cuttings.

Harvest Festival Dinner – Saturday 24th October

Join us for a Harvest Festival Dinner with jazz and blues entertainment from local singer-songwriter Joely Ryan. Come on your own or with friends for a relaxed evening of good food, music and fellowship, while helping to raise funds for our churches.

Menu: Vegetable cheesy crumble or cottage pie, followed by fruit crumble or fruit pie with custard. Fruit juice, tea and coffee provided — or bring your own drinks.

Arrival 7.15pm | Dinner 7.30pm | £20 per person

Booking sheets will be available at the back of each church.

We hope you can join us!

Diocesan Catechist Day – Portsmouth Diocese Saturday 10 October | 9:30am–1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke

Whether you are a parish catechist, sacramental preparation leader, RCIA team member, children's liturgy volunteer, youth catechist, or involved in any ministry of faith formation, you are warmly invited to the Portsmouth Diocese Catechists' Formation Day. We will be joined by Fr Emmanuel Mansford from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Dr Káren North from St Mary's University Twickenham as we come together from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. The day will start with Mass before we move into our sessions, there will also be a time for prayer and reflection as well as hearing from each other before we finish the day with a shared lunch (provided as part of the day).

To register your interest please go to

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan on 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.

Welcoming Our New Deacon

We are delighted to welcome our new Deacon, Rev. Paul Evans, from Farnborough, who begins his ministry with us today.

May the Lord bless and guide him in his service, give him wisdom, strength and joy, and help him to feel truly welcomed and at home within our church community.

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.

This week in our Repository, Discover the Brown Scapular — a traditional Catholic devotion associated with Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Worn as a sign of devotion to Mary, it reminds us of her loving protection and our call to follow Christ through prayer and faithful living.



A Note to Our Parishioners

If you are new to the parish or returning after sometime could I please ask you to ensure you are registered as parishioners. You will know by receiving the newsletter by email that you are registered. Could I also ask you to consider you donations be given by standing order that you can set up with your bank app or by your branch. This makes the budgeting and financial planning so much easier. I would earnestly encourage you to fill in a gift aid form if you pay tax. This allows us to claim 25p in every pound you give from the treasury. This is a free income stream and does not cost you anything and benefits the parish tremendously, yet only 60% of parishioners have signed up. This means there are thousands of pounds each year that we could claim but are not getting.

Other News

Salesian College Autumn Open Events

This autumn, we are hosting two exciting events for current Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and their families:

Sports Open Evening - Friday 18 September, 4.30pm - 6pm

Hosted by our PE Department, this event will give prospective students the opportunity to experience sport at Salesian College alongside

College Open Evening - Wednesday 21 October, 5pm -7pm

Families will be able to tour the College, meet staff and students, and gain a flavour of life at Salesian through our warm Salesian welcome.

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

Gift Aid – Further Details

As mentioned in this week's newsletter, if you are a UK taxpayer, please consider signing up for Gift Aid. The parish can reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid forms are available at the back of both churches, or simply scan the QR code to complete one online.
If you give by contactless, please remember to register your donation for Gift Aid.
Thank you for helping your donation go further and supporting our parish.



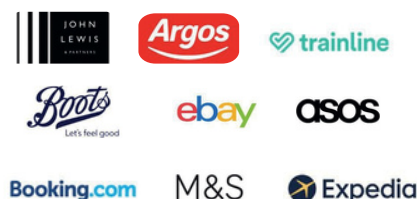
SENSIBLE GIVING Sign up today to make your donation worth 25% more with Gift Aid	STABLE GIVING Set up a regular monthly donation through a Standing Order to support your parish	SERIOUS GIVING Don't just give the leftovers to God... be generous in your giving
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Most 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:



Parish Financial Support July First Collections	
TOTAL:	5,642.00
Contactless	539.51
Direct Debits	480.00
Plate and envelopes:	2,328.69
Standing Orders	2,294.00

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.

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



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

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