

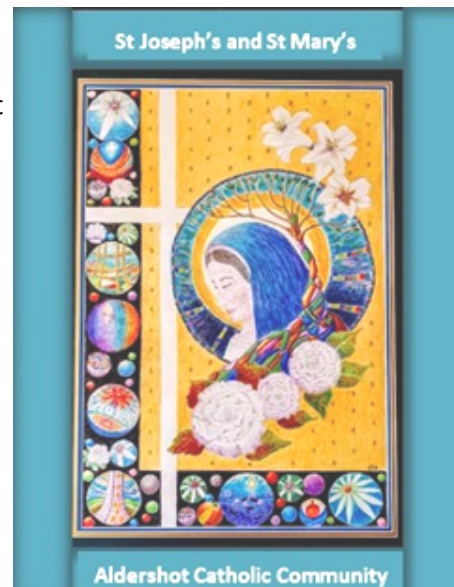


St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot
GU11 3JB

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
20TH SEPT 2026
HOME MISSIONS

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. 3rd October 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 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	19th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	20th	StJ	9.00am		Mr Luke
		StJ	10.30am		Esmund Barros
Mon	21st	StM	9.30am	St Matthew	Kevin Carvalho A Sanifa Wed Anniv.
Tues	22nd	StJ	9.30am	Feria	James Charles Chandler RIP FM
Wed	23rd	StM		NO MASS	
		StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	24th	StJ	9.30am	Our Lady of Walsingham	Jonny Collins
Fri	25th			NO MASS	
Sat	26th	StJ	12.00pm	Feria	Mr Paul

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	26th	StM	5.30pm		Simon Gracias & Myra Fernandes TG
Sun	26th	StJ	9.00am		Irene Chaudhary RIP
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish



“He told them,
You also go and
work in my
vineyard.
and I will pay you
whatever is right.”

MATTHEW 20:4, NIV



God's grace does not operate on the logic of human thinking.

In our First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we are reminded that the Lord's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are His ways our ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth, His mercy outstrips our human understanding. This truth comes alive in the Gospel of Matthew, where the landowner pays the eleventh-hour workers the exact same daily wage, one denarius, as those who worked tirelessly through the heat of the day.

To our secular, transactional world, this looks unfair. But to a soul seeking salvation, it is the most comforting news. This parable speaks directly to our ongoing conversion. Some of us may feel like the early-morning workers. Perhaps you were baptised as an infant, raised in the Church, and have spent decades serving our parish community. It is easy to slip into a mindset of spiritual entitlement, quietly resenting those who arrive late or living with a rigid, contractual faith.

But Jesus reminds us that the vineyard is a gift, not a sweatshop. The denarius is not a wage we earn; it is the gift of eternal life, given out of the absolute generosity of the Father.

Conversion is not a single, past event. It is a daily turning back to God. If we find ourselves envious of His goodness to others, our hearts have grown cold. We must beg the Holy Spirit for a conversion of heart, moving away from a faith based on strict merit and moving toward a faith driven by pure gratitude.

If we truly understand the mindset of the God, we cannot keep the vineyard to ourselves. This Gospel is a radical blueprint for evangelisation.

Notice what the landowner does: he does not sit comfortably in his house waiting for labourers to apply. He goes out. He goes out at dawn, at nine o'clock, at noon, at three o'clock, and even at five o'clock in the evening. He finds people standing idle because no one has hired them.

Right here in our local town of Aldershot, across England today, there are thousands of people standing idle in the marketplace of life. They are drifting, searching for meaning, and feeling unchosen. They are waiting for someone to invite them into the vineyard of the Church.

Evangelisation means sharing the scandalous generosity of God. It means looking at the fallen away, the broken, and those completely outside our church walls, and letting them know that it is never too late to receive the fullness of God's love. Whether someone turns to Christ at seven or seventy-seven, the reward of His presence is exactly the same.

This week, heed Isaiah's call to seek the Lord while he is to be found. Let us examine where we need conversion. Are we harbouring resentment like the first workers? Are we sitting idly by, ignoring our baptismal call to share the Gospel?

Let us pray for the courage to step outside our comfort zones, to go out into our community, and to invite others to encounter the boundless, unearned mercy of Jesus Christ.

Fr Rob



THE PRAYER FOR ENGLAND

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
and our most gentle Queen and Mother,
look down in mercy upon England, thy Downry,
and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.
By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope,
was given unto the world; and He has given thee
to us that we might hope still more.
Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive
and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother,
intercede for our separated brethren, that with us
in the one true fold they may be united
to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son.
Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith, fruitful
in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee in our heavenly home.

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
4TH OCTOBER 2026
CAFOD**

Hedge cutting at St. Mary's

A big thank you to everyone who came along to help with the hedge cutting at St Mary's.

Your time, hard work and willingness to get stuck in were very much appreciated. It was wonderful to see everyone working together to help keep the grounds of our parish church looking cared for and welcoming.

Thank you also to those who brought along tools, ladders and equipment, and to anyone who helped with clearing and disposing of the green waste.

Your generosity and community spirit are greatly appreciated. Thank you all for giving up your time to help.

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, we are featuring the Miraculous Medal a much-loved Catholic devotion associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary. The medal reminds us of Mary's loving intercession and her call to place our trust in God. Traditionally worn as a sign of devotion, it encourages us to turn to Mary in prayer and to follow her example of faith, humility and love for Christ.



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!

Other News

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

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 faith formation ministry, you are warmly invited to the Portsmouth Diocese Catechists' Formation Day.

To register your interest please go to

**<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGR0zEzDh> or email
Meghan on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**

Saturday 17th October: Formation Day for Readers:

It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. All the details can be found on the attached PDF. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org

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.

RCIA – Adult Confirmation

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will commence on 27th September.

If you are an adult who has not yet been Confirmed, or would simply like to deepen your understanding of the Catholic faith, RCIA is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our faith and what it means to live as a Catholic.

It is a welcoming opportunity to ask questions, grow in faith, and prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If you are interested in taking part, or would like to find out more, please speak to Father and register your interest.

Preparing Together Marriage Course

Corpus Christi Catholic will be hosting a new in-person Preparing Together Day on Saturday 17th October 2026

60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2HE

For more information, please visit their website.

If you know couples who may struggle to access the course due to low English/literacy, Traveller community needs, or financial difficulties, please ask them to call our Appointments Service on 0800 389 3801, Monday–Thursday, 9am–6pm, to book.

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.

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

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 August First Collections	
TOTAL:	5,485.84
Contactless	544.49
Direct Debits	480.00
Plate and envelopes:	2,277.35
Standing Orders	2,184.00

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