

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
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Twitter/Instagram:@AldstCatholics

Office Opening Hours
Monday - 10am - 2.30pm
Wednesday 10am - 2.30pm
Thurs 10am - 2pm



2ND COLLECTION
18TH OCTOBER 2026
MISSIO - WORLD MISSION

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. 7th November 2026

Confession adoration introductory prayers and rosary from 11am
Followed by Mass 12 and then final meditation

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

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	10th	StM	5.30pm		Benedita & Felicidade Fernandes **RIP**
Sun	11th	StJ	9.00am		People of the Parish
		StJ	10.30am		Thomas Dunlop **RIP**
Mon	12th	StM	9.30am	Feria	Kenzen Vaz **TG**
Tues	13th	StJ	9.30am	Feria	Collins Family
Wed	14th	StM	9.30am	Feria	Magdatena Gonsalves **RIP**
		StJ	7.00pm	**HOLY HOUR**	
Thurs	15th	StJ		St Teresa od Avila	Collins Family
Fri	16th		**NO MASS**		
Sat	17th	StJ	12.00pm	St Ignatius of Antioch	Anne, Maude &Mabel Hunt **PM FM**

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	17th	StM	5.30pm		Jerry Darragh **Int**
Sun	18th	StJ	9.00am		Madyn Roderigues **BDay**
		StJ	10.30am		People of the Parish



Today's Gospel from Matthew is only days away from the arrest and Passion of Jesus. Today Our Lord compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding feast given by a King for His Son. This powerful image reveals that Heaven is not a place of isolation, but a grand, eternal banquet of joy, communion, and celebration. God the Father has prepared this magnificent feast, and His Son, Jesus Christ, is the Bridegroom, wedded to His Bride, the Church. Every single one of us has received a personal, loving invitation to pull up a seat at this heavenly table, by virtue of our Baptism.

However today Jesus has a stark warning to all of us, receiving an invitation is not enough. Some ignored the Kings summons, choosing instead their businesses or farms. More unsettling still is the man who entered the banquet hall but was cast out because he lacked a wedding garment. In the ancient world, kings provided garments for their guests. To refuse to wear it was a direct insult to the host. Spiritually, this garment represents the sanctifying grace we receive at Baptism. It signifies a life transformed by faith, charity, and obedience. The latter I see can be the most challenging to us, particularly in the West where our culture is individualistic in nature. We need to be obedient to Holy Mother Church, who seeks to guide, nurture and protect us. To keep the wedding garment on for Heaven means we must actively cooperate with God's grace in this world. We cannot claim to accept the Kings invitation while refusing to let His grace change how we live daily.

How do we ensure we keep and maintain this essential garment while on earth? We do so by faithfully living out the life of the Church, most noticeably through Holy Mass attendance and adherence to the Five Precepts of the Church.

Our weekly encounter with the Eucharist is not a mere obligation; it is the earthly anticipation of the heavenly banquet itself. When we gather for Mass every Sunday, we are stepping into the Kings banquet hall ahead of time. Missing Sunday Mass without a serious reason, illness or unavoidable travel, is the same as the figures in the parable who turned away from the Kings invitation to focus on their worldly concerns. Prioritising our personal comforts, chores, or entertainment over the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass leaves our wedding garment soiled and discarded. Regular attendance washes our souls and strengthens our fabric of faith.

The Five Precepts of the Church serve as the practical, structural guide to keeping our garments clean, vibrant, and ready for eternity.

The First Precept is to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. This ensures we stay anchored in the life of grace, continually showing up to receive the Kings nourishment.

The Second Precept is to confess your sins at least once a year. Whenever we sin, we stain or tear our wedding garment. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is where the Lord gently cleanses, mends, and restores our white robe to its original purity.
The Third Precept is to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season. This guarantees that we receive the spiritual nourishment necessary to sustain our spiritual life and love for God.

The Fourth Precept is to observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. Fasting detaches our hearts from the passing things of this world, like the farms and businesses that distracted the ungrateful guests and trains our appetite for the eternal things of God.

The Fifth Precept is to provide for the needs of the Church. This exercises our charity, reminding us that we are part of a household, contributing our time, talent, and treasure to ensure the Kings invitation can reach others on the open roads, particularly in our town of Aldershot.

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, salvation is a free gift, a generous invitation from a loving Father. We did not earn our place at the table, but we must choose to remain there by how we live. Let us not make light of the Kings call. Let us protect our wedding garment by making the Sunday Eucharist the non-negotiable centre of our week, and by allowing the Precepts of the Church to shape our daily discipleship. When the King comes in to meet His guests at the end of time, may He find us clothed in the beautiful garment of holiness, love, and fidelity, ready to feast with Him forever.

If you have missed mass or are returning after a while away. Do not be fearful. You belong here. He wants you here. He wants you wearing your garment more dazzling white than any earthly cleaning agent could get it. Washed clean in the sacrament of confession, then disposed to receive Him in the most precious Eucharist.

May God bless you and your families.

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.

2ND COLLECTION
1ST NOVEMBER 2026
BAMENDA

RCIA – Adult Confirmation

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)the next session will be this Sunday 11th October 2026 at 3pm in the church hall

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.

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.
You can also make payment via the machine at the back to the church. We hope you can join us!

Formation Day for Readers: Saturday 17th October

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.

Saturday 14th November - Charity Mass and Networking day, St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. The theme is 'The Lord is the refuge of the poor' (Psalm 14:6). An event for anyone engaged in or interested in finding out more about social action. See this flyer for more information. Please register your interest so we can send more details closer to the time. Keep up to date by signing up to receive our newsletter, or put love into action and become a Caritas Representative in your parish.

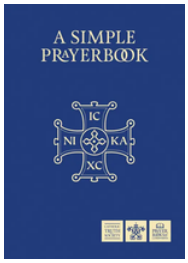
Hire Our Church Hall



Looking for a welcoming space for your next event or gathering? Our church hall is available to hire for meetings, coffee mornings, family activities, celebrations, dance groups, baby showers, christenings and more. For more information or to enquire about availability, please contact 01252 320 956 or hallhire@aldershot-catholics.uk.

Simply Prayers Books

We are very grateful to a kind parishioner who has purchased and generously donated these Simply Prayers books for use within the church.



The books can be found at the back of the church and are available for everyone to use during their time here. Please do not take them away from the church, as they have been donated for the benefit of all our parishioners.

If you would like your own copy, you can purchase one from the Repository, where you will also find a wide selection of other religious books, cards, gifts and resources. Thank you for helping us to keep these books available for everyone to enjoy and use.

A Renewed Call for Our Welcome Team

We're making a renewed call for volunteers to be part of our Welcome Team.
Our Welcome Team has such an important role in helping people feel noticed, welcomed and at home. As we look ahead, we'd love to build the team and encourage more people to get involved.
If you've thought about joining before but haven't taken the step, perhaps now is the time! Whether you can commit regularly or simply help from time to time, your contribution would make a real difference.
You don't need to have done anything like this before just a willingness to smile, say hello, help someone find their way and make people feel welcome.
Could you be part of the team? We'd love to hear from you. Please email Jason Swan Clark at clark.jason@me.com.

Other News

Salesian College Autumn Open Events

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.

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.

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.









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

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**

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:

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

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"