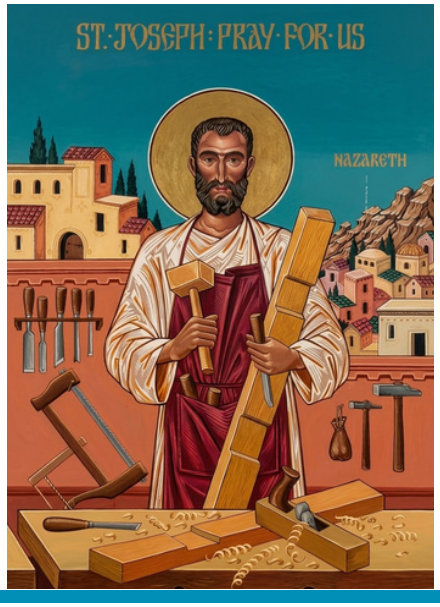
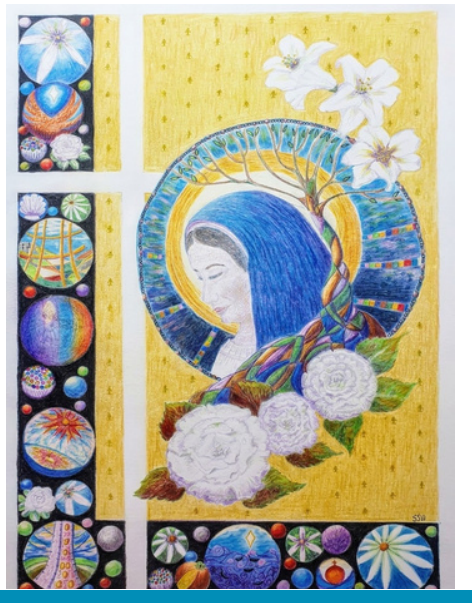


St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot
GU11 3JB

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
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

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
Mon	19th	StM	9.30am	Feria	Anthony Goes **TG**
Tues	20th	StJ	9.30am	Feria	Savio & M Rache **TG**
Wed	21st	StM	9.30am	Feria	Fenwick & Jasmine Pereira **Wed Anniv.**
		StJ	7.00pm	**HOLY HOUR**	
Thurs	22nd	StJ		Feria	Collins Family
Fri	23rd		**NO MASS**		
Sat	24th	StJ	12.00pm	Our Lady on Saturday	Josephine & William O'Connor **RIP**

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	24th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	25th	StJ	9.00am		Bernie Smith **RIP**
		StJ	10.30am		Socomina & Melrick Fernandes **Wed Anniv.**



The first reading today, written at the end of the Babylonian exile, revealed to the Israelites that God was not just the God of Israel but of the whole world. Even Cyrus, the King of Persia, who did not know God, became an instrument of his saving purposes, helping to free the Israelites from exile. God can work through people and circumstances we might never expect, fulfilling His plans in ways that we could never achieve by ourselves. God declares that He is sovereign over all things "from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.".

The reading also reveals three beautiful truths about God: he knows us by name, he opens doors before us, and he equips us to serve him.
- What would change in my life if I truly believed that God knows me personally and calls me by name?
- What doors has God already opened in my life that I have failed to notice or give thanks for?
- What gifts has God given me, and how might he be asking me to use them in the service of others?
- Jesus tells us that to know him is to know the Father. How can I draw closer to Jesus this week so that I may know the Father more deeply?

In the second reading, we encounter one of Paul's earliest letters and he praises the Thessalonians because of the conviction and steadfastness they demonstrate in their lives. Because they are chosen and loved by God, they respond by living lives of faith, hope and love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- We too are chosen and loved by God. Are we responding with lives of faith, hope and love?
- Do I live each day with the confidence that I am loved by God, even when I feel inadequate or unworthy?
- Can others see faith, hope and love in the way I live, and do I remember to thank God for his gifts?

The Gospel presents us with a seemingly impossible trap that Jesus escapes using one of the most famous and most quoted lines of Scripture: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.". It is tempting to admire Jesus' clever response and move on, but this would be a mistake. Jesus' question is also directed at us, and we are asked to ponder what belongs to God, in whom, as St. Paul reminds us in Acts, "we live and move and have our being."

Jesus tells his questioners to give the coin back to Caesar because it bears Caesar's image. But Scripture tells us that we have been made in the image and likeness of God. If the coin belongs to Caesar because it bears his image, then we belong to God because we bear his image. We cannot give God merely a portion of our lives, because our whole lives belong to him.

- What part of my life am I trying to keep for myself and what is preventing me from dedicating it to God?
- Do I recognise the image of God in others including the stranger, the person who irritates me or even the person with whom I strongly disagree?
- Do I split my life into separate compartments, with God in one, work in another and everything else somewhere in between. What would it mean to invite Christ into every part of my life?
- What can I change this week to bring God more fully into an area of my life that I have been keeping separate?

Heavenly Father, you sustain all things in your love. You call us each by name, you open doors before us and equip us with every grace and gift we need to follow you. You reveal yourself to us through your Son, Jesus who has opened the door to eternal life. Forgive me for the times when I take credit for what I have received from you, when I have failed to thank you for the doors you have opened and when I allow things to take priority over you. Forgive me, too, for the times when I try to keep you in a box rather than making you Lord of every part of my life. Teach me to live with gratitude, to grow in faith, to persevere in hope and to love as you love. Help me to recognise your image in those I meet and to use the gifts you have given me in your service. Amen

May God bless you and your families.

Deacon Paul

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

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!

RCIA – Adult Confirmation

The next RCIA session will take place on Sunday 25th October 2026 at 3pm in the church hall.
If you are an adult who has not yet received Confirmation, or would like to deepen your understanding of the Catholic faith, RCIA offers a welcoming opportunity to learn, ask questions and grow in faith as you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
If you are interested in joining or would like further information, please speak to Father and register your interest.

Grave Blessings

The Month of November is traditionally the month we remember those who have died and gone before us. Usually there are blessing of the graves that takes place on the weekend of AllSaints and All Souls' Day. Unfortunately I will be away that weekend. Grave blessings will take place at Redan Road cemetery on Sunday 8th of November at 12 noon. If you would like the graves of you relatives to be blessed individually please meet me there.

October – The Month of the Holy Rosary

October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary. We are encouraged to make time each day to pray the Rosary, reflecting on the life of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and bringing our prayers and intentions to God.
Pope Leo XIV has invited the faithful to pray the Rosary throughout October, particularly for an end to war and peace among nations. He also reminds us to accompany our prayers with acts of mercy, dialogue and reconciliation. Let us respond to his invitation and unite in prayer for peace in our world and in our families.

A Call for Our Welcome Team

We're looking for volunteers to join our Welcome Team and help everyone feel noticed, welcomed and at home in our church. Whether you can help regularly or occasionally, all you need is a friendly smile and a willingness to say hello and lend a hand.
Could you be part of the team? We'd love to hear from you! Please contact Jason Swan Clark at clark.jason@me.com.

Volunteers for Christmas

I am looking for three volunteers to welcome people to our parish over the Christmas period. As you know we have an increase in attendance at these times, some people not so familiar with the Church and I would like anyone to feel out of place or awkward. There will be one Mass on Christmas Eve, and two morning masses on Christmas Day. If this is something you would be willing to do please contact parish office either by email or by phone.

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.



Diocese Parish Evangelisation Cell Formation Day

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

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.

ADoRE live in Reading (or via YouTube livestream)

On Saturday 24th October, 9.30am - 3:30pm there is a great opportunity for your parishioners and communities to join Anyone can attend free of charge, it will be helpful if you can register in advance to attend in person, as this will save time when you arrive. If you can't be with us in person, join the YouTube live-stream from 10am - 1pm via this link (no registration required). There are more details on the meeting agenda, how to get to English Martyrs, Reading, what to bring, and other useful information here.

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 Sept First Collections	
TOTAL:	**6,835.20**
Contactless	**713.00**
Direct Debits	**480.00**
Plate and envelopes:	**3,138.20**
Standing Orders	**2,504.00**

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:

John Lewis · Argos · trainline · Boots · ebay · asos · Booking.com · M&S · Expedia

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"