



St Joseph's
Queens Road Aldershot GU11 3JB

St Mary's
Belle Vue Road Aldershot GU12 4RX

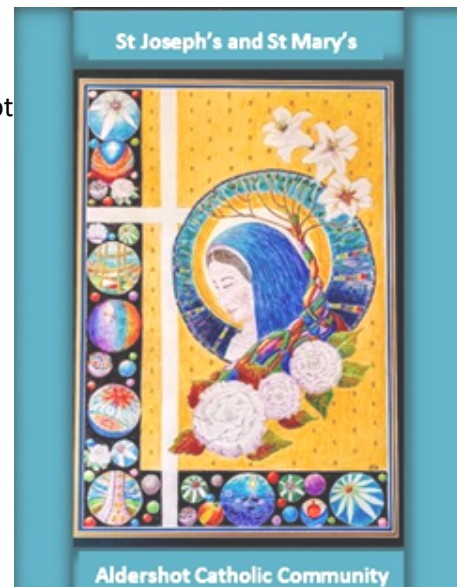
T: 01252 320956
E: office@aldershot-catholics.uk
W: www.aldershot-catholics.uk
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Office Opening Hours

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.

1st August 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.

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.

Mass Times
16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	18th	StM	5.30pm		People of the Parish
Sun	19th	StJ	9.00am		
		StJ	10.30am		Mary Driver RIP
Mon	20th	StM	1.45pm	St Apollinaris	Requiem Mass Linda Tookey
Tues	21st	StJ	9.30am	St Laurence of Brindisi	Michael Carty & Charmaine Marshall TG
Wed	22nd	StM	9.30am	St Mary Magdalene	Mark P & Michelle R TG
		StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	23rd	StJ	9.30am	St Bridget of Sweden	Mary & Dennis McCarthy RIP
Fri	24th			NO MASS	
Sat	25th	StJ	12.00pm	St James	Jonny Collins

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	25th	StM	5.30pm		
Sun	26th	StJ	9.00am		People of the Parish
		StJ	10.30am		



The Gospel today again uses the analogy of the Sower. This week our readings invite us to look closely at the soil of our hearts. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shares the parable of the wheat and the weeds. It is a powerful image that perfectly describes the reality of our world and our individual souls. We often look at the world and wonder why there is so much evil, why the weeds seem to choke out the good things God has planted. But if we are honest with ourselves, we also see this struggle within our own hearts. We find the desire to love God coexisting with moments of selfishness, pride, and impatience.

How do we handle this tension? How do we ensure that the wheat the grace and virtue God has given us prevails over the weeds? The answer lies in how we cultivate our spiritual life and intentionally grow in virtue. This is the responsibility that we take on in Confirmation.

First, to cultivate a deep spiritual life, we see and know our own limitations and rely entirely on the Holy Spirit. In our second reading, Saint Paul reminds us of a comforting truth: "The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought." Spiritual growth does not happen through sheer willpower or human effort alone. It begins with humility. It begins when we bring our exhaustion, our distractions, and our empty hands to God and say, "Lord, I do not even know how to pray today. Please pray through me." Saint Paul assures us that the Spirit intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. When you feel distant from God, or when prayer feels like a dry desert, remember that the Holy Spirit is active within you, aligning your heart with the will of the Father. It is true God grants many of us consolations in our prayer, however we should not see this as the aim of prayer or feel despondent if we do not receive such a gift. Cultivating your spiritual life means making daily space for this silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to breathe life into your soul through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Confession.

Second, cultivating this inner life naturally bears fruit in the growth of virtue. Virtue is not a fleeting good feeling; it is a firm and habitual disposition to do the good. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed and to yeast. Both begin incredibly small, almost invisible to the naked eye, yet they possess an immense power to transform. This is exactly how virtue grows in our lives. We do not become saints overnight. We grow in virtue through small, daily, deliberate choices, indeed this is the true purpose of Life.

Think of the mustard seed. If you want to grow in the virtue of patience, you must plant the seed today. When you are stuck in traffic, or when a family member tests your nerves, that is the moment to choose patience. If you want to grow in charity, it begins with a small act of kindness or a word of encouragement to someone who is hurting. Like the yeast that lifts the entire batch of dough, these tiny acts of virtue, repeated day after day, slowly transform our entire character. They crowd out the weeds of vice.

However, Jesus also gives us a warning in the parable. The master tells the servants not to pull up the weeds immediately, lest they uproot the wheat with them. God possesses an incredible, patient mercy. He allows time for the harvest to mature. This means God is patient with you. He sees the weeds in your life, but He does not abandon you. He gives you time to repent, to heal, and to grow. Therefore, we must do the same to others.

Even in our town of Aldershot God is calling out for saints. Do not be discouraged by your faults or the slow pace of your spiritual progress. Instead, focus on the soil. Water it daily with prayer. Nourish it with the Word of God. Till it through the Sacraments. Trust that the good seed God has planted in you will grow, breaking through the weeds of this world, until it reaches full maturity. Let us ask the Holy Spirit today to take control of our prayers, to root out the vices that bind us, and to cultivate within us the beautiful, lasting wheat of Christian Catholic virtue.

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 25th July to 31st July. Thank you to Father Patrick Sherlock who will celebrate the weekend Masses. There will be no morning mass from 27th - 31st July

Please note the next dates Father is away will be;
10th - 17th August

There will be no weekday Masses during his period

Could You Help Someone Feel at Home?

A smile. A welcome. A short conversation.

Could You Help Welcome Others?

A warm welcome can make all the difference. Every week, new visitors, returning Catholics, and those seeking a place to belong join us at St Mary's and St Joseph's. We want everyone to feel at home. Over the coming months, we will be launching a Welcome Team and are looking for friendly, approachable volunteers. No experience is needed, and there is no commitment at this stage—just an opportunity to find out more.

If you're interested, please email Jason Swan Clark at clark.jason@me.com. I will also be speaking about the Welcome Team at all Masses over the coming weeks, with an opportunity to ask questions afterwards.

From Pope Leo XIV

Both the parable and the Encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, call us to the same humility: resisting the urge to judge, sort, or discard, and trusting instead in the dignity God has placed in every person a dignity no technology, and no human hand, has the right to weigh or diminish.

Let us pray for the patience to let God's harvest unfold in His time, and for the wisdom to see every person however imperfect, however unfamiliar as wheat, not weed.

Parish Maintenance Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers with practical skills to help with occasional maintenance and repair work around the parish. We would particularly welcome those with experience in electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, general DIY, or handyman repairs. If you can offer some of your time and skills, please contact the parish office. Your help will make a valuable contribution to the care and upkeep of our parish facilities.

Gift Aid.

Gift Aid is the process through which our parish, as a registered charity, can claim additional money from the Government at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK taxpayer, every pound you donate has already been taxed. Because your offering is given to a charity, the Church can increase the value of your donation by 25% by claiming back the tax you have already paid. All it takes is a few minutes to complete a simple Gift Aid declaration. There are potentially thousands of pounds that our parish could claim back each year funds that are urgently needed. To date, just over 60% of eligible parishioners have completed a Gift Aid form. If you pay tax, please complete a form, available at the back of each church, or ask for advice if you are unsure. If you make your donations using the contactless giving machine in either church, please remember to register your donation for Gift Aid on the device itself. If you are unsure how to do this, please ask for assistance. Alternatively, you can complete a Gift Aid declaration by scanning the QR code to complete the form online.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth -
Gift Aid Declaration Form



Treasures for the Soul – Available from the Parish Repository



Visit the Repository after Mass, where a carefully selected range of books, rosaries, medals, candles, prayer cards, and devotional items await. Every purchase supports our parish mission while nourishing your own faith. A few treasures currently available:

A Simple Prayer Book

A faithful companion for everyday prayer, offering traditional Catholic prayers to guide your morning, evening, and personal devotions — a beautiful, pocket-sized resource for every Catholic home.

Rediscover Jesus – Matthew Kelly

This inspiring bestseller invites readers to encounter Jesus afresh, reminding us that the Christian life is not about perfection, but about becoming who God created us to be.

The Gospel of Luke

Known as the Gospel of mercy and compassion, St Luke's Gospel reveals Christ's love for all people, especially the poor, the forgotten and the lost ideal for reflection, study, or daily reading.

Come discover these treasures and more we look forward to seeing you at the Repository.

Other News

World Day for Grandparents and Older People

On the weekend of 26th July we mark the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, established by Pope Francis to honour the invaluable gift of older people in our families, parish, and society. We give thanks for their faith, wisdom, and witness, and we remember especially those who are lonely, unwell, or unable to join us.

Please keep all grandparents and elderly members of our community in your prayers, asking God's blessing, strength, and peace upon them. A resource pack for this year's celebration is available [here](#)

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

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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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.

Parish website

The site is being refreshed, but you can download newsletters from: St Joseph's & St Mary's Aldershot, [St Joseph's & St Mary's Aldershot - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#).

Lots more information about what's on in the Diocese from [e-News - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#)

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Gift Aid Officer: Jimmy Chung, E: giftaid@aldershot-catholics.uk
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Marian Momoh T: 07376 737 897
E: safeguarding@aldershot-catholics.uk
Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Coordinator:
Ruth Attfield T: 023 9421 6486
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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. Charity no 1199568)
Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church"

WeBelieve Festival – 24–27 July

Join the WeBelieve Festival at St Mary's College, Oscott, for four days of faith, worship, inspiring speakers, fellowship, and celebration. It is an opportunity to deepen your faith, discover the richness of the Church's traditions and charisms, and encounter the transforming love of God in the beautiful setting of Oscott. [Ticket info](#)

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.

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:

