

ST. JOSEPH: PRAY FOR US



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
1ST NOVEMBER 2026
BAMENDA

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

The votive candle money boxes in St Joseph's are now repaired, but those in St Mary's are temporarily out of service.

Please use the contactless payment machine for your offerings.
Thank you for your understanding.

Mass Times 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.
Mon	26th	StM	9.30am	Feria	Francisco & Ana Gonsalves Wed Anniv
Tues	27th	StJ	9.30am	Feria	Maria Joanna Silveira BDay
Wed	28th	StM	9.30am	Ss Simon & Jude	Zion Pereira BDay
		StJ	7.00pm	HOLY HOUR	
Thurs	29th	StJ		Feria	Collins Family
Fri	30th		NO MASS		
Sat	31st	StJ	12.00pm	Our Lady on Saturday	Clarinda D'Souza BDay

All Saints

Sat	31st	StM	5.30pm		Leia Vaz BDay
Sun	1st	StJ	9.00am		People of the Parish
		StJ	10.30am		All Hallows Sch FM

THE GREATEST
COMMANDMENTS
LOVE GOD | LOVE THY NEIGHBOR
MATTHEW 22:36-40

This week's Gospel continues from last week's Gospel. Deacon Paul told us last week how the Scribes and Herodians had tried to trap Jesus. To find a reason to denounce and discredit Him. This is Holy Week, this drama plays out in Jerusalem, a short while before Jesus is arrested. We find ourselves in the tension filled final days of Our Lord's public ministry in Jerusalem. The religious authorities are desperate. The Sadducees had just failed to humiliate Jesus regarding the resurrection, so the Pharisees gather to mount their own theological assault. Matthew tells us that a lawyer, an expert in the Mosaic law, steps forward to test Him, asking, Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?

Just a bit of context to help understand the weight of this moment, we must understand the precise nature of the trap being sprung. First-century Jewish rabbinic tradition had 613 distinct commandments within the Torah, 365 prohibitions and 248 positive instructions. Religious scholars fiercely debated which of these laws were heavy, meaning weighty and essential, and which were less critical. The lawyer's question was a calculated legal trap if Jesus elevated one law above the others, He would immediately alienate factions of the populace. If He chose a ritual law, He would be accused of neglecting morality; if He chose a moral law, He would be charged with undermining the sacred temple sacrifices. Worse still, if He declared one commandment supreme, His opponents were ready to accuse Him of trivialising the rest of God's holy law, rendering Him a heretic and a false prophet in the eyes of the public. Jesus, however, knows this and will not fall for the trap. Instead, He cuts through centuries of theological discussions and arguments with staggering, divine clarity. He says, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. In a single breath, Jesus does not discard the law; He unifies it. He shows that the 613 commandments are not a disjointed checklist of rules to be leveraged for intellectual supremacy or social control. They are a roadmap of love. Which is the spirit in which the law was written.

This brings us to an uncomfortable truth for our own generation, and philosophy of our modern culture. We have taken this terrifyingly beautiful radical command, to love, and diluted it into a toothless call to be nice. This will be challenging to some, but this is not our Faith. We have confused holy charity with simple social politeness or conflict avoidance. It is too easy to pacify and confirm others in falsehoods, to the extent that people like us and say we have a heart of gold and still have no true love in us at all. Love being wanting the highest and best thing for the other. But True Catholic love is not about avoiding uncomfortable conversations; it is about actively willing the highest, eternal good for another person. Wanting and willing their good requires an unwavering commitment to the truth. This is the hard route; it is not the path of least resistance.

We live in a society that deeply fears causing offence. We are told that the ultimate form of compassion is to simply confirm people exactly where they are at, to validate every choice, every impulse, and every cultural orthodoxy without question, no matter how strange and dismissive of foundational principles of our culture and society. However, look at the ministry of Jesus, He never left people exactly as He found them. He met people where they were, absolutely, in their brokenness, their sin, and their despair, but His love was fundamentally transformative. He did not affirm the woman caught in adultery in her actions; He rescued her from her accusers and commanded her to go and sin no more.

To love our neighbour as ourselves means we must desire God's highest reality for them. It is a profound failure of love to whisper comfortable falsehoods into the ears of those we care about just to protect our own reputation for being agreeable or kind-hearted. Speaking the truth in love requires us to step out of the safe realm of niceness and into the demanding, costly realm of Gospel charity. It can be difficult and costly. It means having the courage to offer gentle correction, to stand firm on biblical truths when the cultural tide flows the other way, and to do so with a heart completely free of cruelty.

Our Faith has to be based on Christ Himself. We have seen Christian worshippers try to affirm and accommodate every ideology, as their lived reality, as their choice. In fact, this has proved to fracture and dismantle because this is not compatible so removed from the truth revealed to us. If we only affirm what is fashionable, we are not loving our neighbour; we are merely loving our own comfort. This week, let us ask the Holy Spirit for the fortitude to love truly, deeply, and courageously. Let us be a parish community where truth and mercy kiss, where we welcome everyone with open arms, but love them far too much to leave them unchanged by the grace of God. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through the Holy Spirit. In Truth.

Love from 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.**

RCIA – Adult Confirmation

The next RCIA session will take place today 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 All Saints 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.

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.

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.

🎧 Missed Sunday's Homily? Want to Listen Again?

Our Sunday homilies are available to listen to anytime! Catch up on something you missed, revisit a message that spoke to you, or share it with a friend.

Listen on our parish website or through Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music and YouTube Music.

👉 **Listen here:**

<https://www.aldershot-catholics.uk/podcast>

Take Sunday's message into the rest of your week!

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.

ST JOSEPH'S ALDERSHOT CHURCH HALL
A Beautiful Space for Every Occasion

WEDDINGS & CELEBRATIONS
DANCE GROUPS
MOTHER & TODDLER GROUPS
FITNESS & EXERCISE CLASSES
FAMILY GATHERINGS
MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN
PARKING ON SITE

From intimate gatherings to grand celebrations, our hall is the perfect setting for your special moments.

Scan to Contact Us

For further information hallhire@aldershot-catholics.uk 01252 320 956

Please note: The hall photograph is for illustrative purposes only and shows an example of how the hall can be decorated and arranged for an event. Actual layouts and decorations may vary according to each individual's preferences and requirements.

For more information or to enquire about availability, please contact 01252 320 956 or hallhire@aldershot-catholics.uk.

Other News

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.



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 | AccountNo: 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 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

community grubhub 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"