

Mass Times

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sat 7th Dec	StM 5.30pm	
Sun 8th	StJ 9.00am	People of the Parish
	StJ 10.30am	Mary Niccoli RIP
Mon 9th	StM 9.30am	Collins Family
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
Tues 10th	StJ 9.30am	2nd Week of Advent Tony Fink RIP
Wed 11th	StM 9.30am	2nd Week of Advent
	StJ 7pm	Holy Hour
Thurs 12th	StJ 9.30am	Our Lady of Guadalupe Anthony Willetts RIP
Fri 13th	No Mass	
Sat 14th	StJ 12 noon	St John of the Cross Stuart Allen RIP
	StM 5.30pm	Barbara Patterson
Sun 15th	StJ 9.00am	Lise Ah-Yow
	StJ 10.30am	People of the Parish

Confessions on Saturdays

from 11am to 11.45 am at St Josephs

from 4.45pm to 5.15pm at St Mary's

Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office on **01252 320956** to arrange a time convenient for you and for Fr Rob.

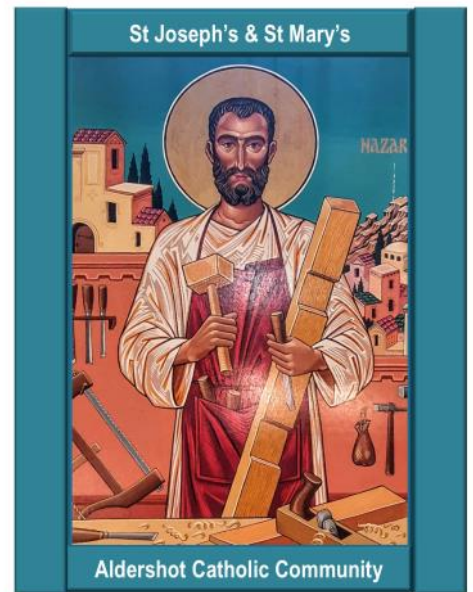
Mass Intentions

If you would like to request a Mass Intention, please call in at the Parish Office, Mon to Fri 10am to 12 noon, phone, or e-mail: office@aldershot-catholics.uk

Traditionally the parish priest lives on the offerings from the parish. Mass intentions is one of the ways to support the income of the parish priest.

Please contact the parish office if you would like to have a Mass said.

With Thanks Fr Rob



St Joseph's

Queens Road Aldershot GU11 3JB

St Mary's

Belle Vue Road Aldershot GU12 4RX

www.aldershot-catholics.uk

Facebook: AldershotCatholics

X: @AldstCatholics

Instagram: @AldstCatholics

Parish Priest

Fr Rob Stewart

T: 01252 320956

E: office@aldershot-catholics.uk

If you are unwell, can't come to Mass and would like to receive the Sacraments at home, contact Fr Rob.

If you are going in to **hospital**, please get in touch with the relevant chaplaincy service:
Frimley Park Hospital
 Portsmouth Road, Frimley
 GU16 7UJ
 0300 6134184

From Fr Rob

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas eve. St Marys 6pm

St J 8pm

Christmas Day St J 9am

St J 1030am 26th Dec. St Stephens day mass St J 10am

Monday 30th -Friday 3rd no liturgies

The New Year of the Church started last week a new liturgical year with new lectionaries. We also had our financial audit of the parish looking over our parishes situation in the last 12 months.

1. There were lots of questions about significant increases and decreases of annual line amounts both on the income and expenditure lines of the accounts, as would be expected from an audit process.

The increases in income are of course explained by all your work on re-engaging our parishioners, the increased mass counts and the attention parishioners have paid to the 3 financial messages.

The significant decreases on some expenditure lines especially in Altar and Liturgical and Heating and Lighting are of course down to controlling expenditure. We spoke about Fr Rob's implementation of the Purchase order system and going out for 3 quotes, and other changes ...all part of the usual processes that should be in place in every parish.

We spent some time talking about the significant spend within the different building and repairs lines. We spoke about our thoughts about the value for money issue with the St J ceiling repair, the long delayed repair of the heating system at St Marys, plus the catch up on mandatory compliance and additional charges through doing essential work after it should have been done. We spoke about the significant increase in the headcount costs due to the 2 redundancies and the 1 termination of employment agreement. And the reasons for these, and the process that we went through in getting agreement to these actions

I was very clear that because we are still in discussion with the Trustees about the accountability of the deficit built up during the six year previous to Fr Rob's arrival in Sept 23, I had not signed off the annual accounts.

That was accepted and recorded after a brief discussion.

Charles, who works for diocesan finance dept. was very supportive and commended us to the auditor on how much turn around has been achieved here and how this parish is now an example of how things should be done.

Charles view, after the end of the work yesterday, was that he didn't think we should have any concerns at all: from his point of view he thought St Joseph's accounts and systems were top quality. He asked me to say how impressive this is from where we were 12 months ago.

So a good result due to the response of you all. A special thank you to Sheila Wade, Marianne and Debbie and in her absence Davina, for all their work this past year in helping this parish achieve this result

Parish News

The Christmas collections during Christmas Eve and Christmas day are the parishes gift to the parish Priest. For those of you who give by standing order there is no collection for this day. Traditionally these monies support the priest to live during the year. I know you all give during the weekend. If I could ask you to please consider your gift for this day. With thanks.

Wednesday 18th 7pm there will be a penitential service at Church Crookham. The priest of our pastoral area will be there to hear and celebrate confession for those who wish to prepare for Christmas.

Wednesday 11th 7pm I will be hearing confessions between 7-7.50pm for those who wish or need confession.

I need your help Saturday 23rd St Josephs after mass on Saturday at 1230. I will be looking at preparing our parish Church at St Josephs. This will include cleaning the church, polishing metal work, The putting up and decoration of Christmas tree and the assembling of the crib. Also decorating and putting up of tree in Parish Hall.

I need your help. Saturday 14th December. Painting and decorating the parish hall including bathrooms, meeting room and parish office. If you are able to help please bring a paint brush and roller. 9am Saturday morning onwards. I am hoping to be able to use it on Christmas Eve after the evening mass but I need your help.

Contactless giving. Apologies the machines in our Churches for contactless giving have not been working for the last month or so. After investigating we have at least got to the source of the problem which is not something that we can fix ourselves I am hoping to have this rectified by Christmas. I the meantime apologies for the inconvenience but if in the interim you could consider a standing order or cash. Unfortunately because of the problem our income was down quite significantly last month.

We can still defeat assisted suicide!

Thank you to all of you who filled in one of our postcards, emailed our MP to encourage her to vote against the bill.

There is a clear path toward the assisted suicide Bill being defeated at Third Reading. Early analysis shows that at least 36 MPs supported the Bill but have concerns that mean they may vote NO at later stages. Just 28 MPs switching their stance to NO would ensure it is defeated at Third Reading. We need MPs to know that their constituents want them to vote NO at Third Reading.

Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASvote to find out how your MP voted and ask them to vote against the Bill at Third Reading.

Christmas Raffle

We are having a Christmas raffle, tickets are on sale after Mass

2 Tickets for £1.00

Proceeds to St Josephs Church

Other News

Jubilee Year 2025

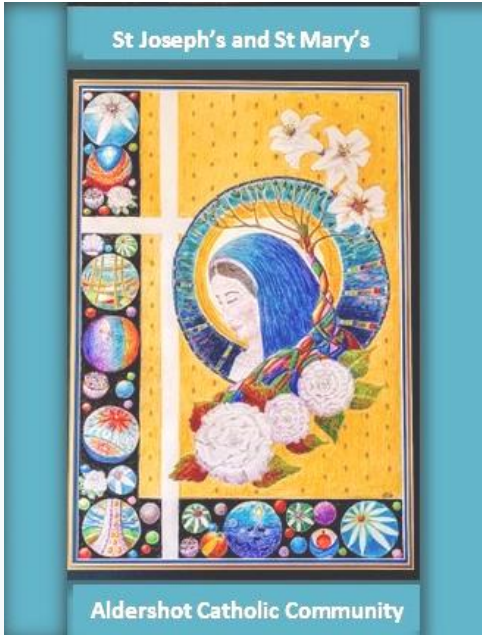
Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years.

The theme for Jubilee Year 2025 is “**Pilgrims of Hope**”, a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19, and a climate crisis.

The 2025 Year of Jubilee will begin on 24th December 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter’s Basilica and will draw to a close on the feast of Epiphany, January 2026.

Find out more by going to this page on the Diocesan website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/

Lots more information about what's on in the Diocese from e-News. See below.



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

Please support our parish by donating via standing order and signing up for gift aid. Forms are available at the back of the church, on the web site and from the parish office. Our parish bank account details are:

CDP Aldershot St Joseph
Sort Code: 30-93-04
Account Number: 00873072
Please set up standing order yourself

Most parishes aim to receive 75% of their income from monthly standing orders to give stability to parish collection income.

Aldershot has a long way to go, and Fr Rob will be working with us on this in the coming months.

Parish Financial Support
September First Collections

TOTAL:	£4244
Plate and envelopes:	£1940
Standing Orders:	£1716
Direct Debits:	£588
Contactless:	£0

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Rob Stewart T: 01252 320956

Safeguarding Minister:
E: safeguarding@aldershot-catholics.uk

Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Coordinator:
Ruth Attfield T: 023 9421 6486 E: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Debbie May T: 01252 320956, E: office@aldershot-catholics.uk

Bookkeeper: Marianne Amano E: accounts@aldershot-catholics.uk

Gift Aid Officer: Sheila Wade E: swade@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Schools:

St Joseph's Primary Academy
Bridge Road, Aldershot GU11 3DD
T: 01252 350583 E: admin@stjosephs.hants.sch.uk

Parish Office in the Parish Hall

Opening Hours:
Mon-Fri from 10 am to 12 noon.

Out of hours: Please get in touch as below
T: 01252 320956
E: office@aldershot-catholics.uk

All Hallows Catholic School
Weybourne Road, Farnham GU9 9HF
T: 01252 319211 E: admin@allhallows.net



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