



**Catholic Parish of  
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm  
Sherborne**



**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

**Expectant Mothers**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent - Year C**

**Daily Mass Year 1 – Daily Prayer 4**

E-mail: [sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk) website: [www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org.uk)

**The Parish Office is generally open on Wednesday & Friday 9.30am – 1.30pm**  
Please email or leave a phone message and we will get back to you.

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Don Porter RIP</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>For the sick &amp; housebound</b>
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>Jim &amp; May McGrath RIP</b> <b>Winnie Barrett RIP</b>
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Celebrant's Intentions</b>
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Feast of St. Stephen</i>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Altar Servers of the Parish</b>
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>James &amp; Michelle Aldhouse</b> <i>(Golden wedding)</i>



**Baptism – Please pray for Felix Nathaniel Billington who is to be baptised at Mass this Sunday, and for his godparents and family.**

**Sherborne Churches Together** invites us to pray for a particular worshipping community each week. Today we pray for Cheap Street Church. We hope that this will bring our Christian family closer together.

**Confessions** on Saturdays 5.00-5.45pm or on request.

**Office Tel: 01935 812021**

Convent: 01935 816591 (For Mass intentions)

Mgr. Canon Robert Draper

**The Parish House, Westbury, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3EL Tel: 01935 816420**

Deacon Jonathan Simon Tel: 01935 873100

The Parish of the Sacred Heart & St Aldhelm is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, Registered Charity No. 213227

## *Weekly Letter*

“So much to do!”

It seems to be the same every year, regardless of all the lessons we thought we'd learnt, it's a mad scramble, and the list of things “to do” keeps getting added to, and there is always some unexpected emergency/surprise/visit which makes a nonsense of all our planning.

The irony, of course, for us as people of faith, is that the Christmas story makes it clear that such is the very nature of what we are celebrating. When we read those first chapters of Matthew and Luke, we should be struck by just how unexpected and strange so much of it is. Just look at all the key players in the account and how their lives - and plans – were thrown into disorder – Mary, Joseph, the crowd travelling for the census, the shepherds, the Magi - even Herod and the authorities in Jerusalem. When God is at work, anything can happen.

Because that is what this celebration is about – God at work! In the end it is not about our plans and our organisation, it is about God coming into our lives and interrupting us and asking us to respond.

So I suggest I need to make sure that I don't miss the meaning of what is happening by being preoccupied with my own agenda. I need to make sure that the lessons of the gospels we will hear in the coming days are not missed. I need to ensure that I make sure to hear what the angels are telling me, and then I can do their bidding – like Mary and Joseph and the magi and the shepherds!

May God bless all of us in this parish and keep us all together rejoicing in the presence of Jesus as he comes as God with us!

*Fr Robert*

## **Prayers of the faithful**

### **Fourth Sunday Advent Year C**

We pray for the church: for all God's people who look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ: the Word made Flesh: may he find us prepared to celebrate his coming among us.

We pray for those parts of our world where people live with despair and fear: may the coming of Christ in our midst bring them hope.

We pray for all parents and their families, for expectant mothers and for children. May the celebration of Christ's birth draw them ever closer to one other.

We pray for those people whose children are a source of sadness, for those are unable to have children, and for those who have lost children, that the Lord may bring them consolation.

We pray for those who have died: may they share in the life of God who is Immanuel, God-with-us.

## **Sunday Readings – a brief reflection**

**Sunday 15th December**

**4th Sunday Advent –**

Mic 5:1-4 Ps 79 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-44

The gospel of the Visitation is a powerful expression of the wonder of Elizabeth at what God has done: “Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?” That question is amplified throughout the church later this week as the Christian faithful celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation: why should we be honoured with a visit from the Lord himself, the Word made Flesh? All around us this week countless numbers of people of many faiths and none will join in the celebrations for Christmas and hopefully may be asking themselves questions about what it means and why it is worth celebrating; but for those who— like John the Baptist in his mother’s’ womb – recognise the presence of the Christ, they will truly celebrate because they – like Mary – will be indeed blessed because they believe that “the promise made by the Lord would be fulfilled”.

*For reflection:*

*What are the ways you will use to ensure that you will be indeed be celebrating the Incarnation next week?*

*In what ways do you see yourself as someone who has been honoured by a visit from the Lord himself?*

***Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December***

***There will be a time of quiet prayer in the church with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, some gentle music and the opportunity for confession.***

## ***Masses this week in church:***

### **Christmas Eve:**

4.30pm Vigil

6.30pm Mass of the Night

### **Christmas Morning:**

10.30am Christmas Mass

Monday, Thursday and Friday at 10.00am

*God bless you, and those you love, at Christmas*  
*~ Fr. Robert*



*Fr Robert is producing a short daily email with a reflection on the daily mass readings. If you would like to receive it, please let the office know.*

*Please keep in touch and tell others who wish to keep in touch with the parish by emailing the parish office (or phoning Fr Robert - 816420) and we will respond.*

*If you know of any parishioner who is not on the internet or who cannot receive emails, do please make a hard copy of this, and put it through their letter box, or contact the parish office and we will try and do that.*

*If there are specific needs you have and want help – please let us know.*

*If you would like a Mass said, there are special envelopes in the narthex, or you may wish to use your own. Please post through the Convent door, or leave in the office postbox. It is customary to give a donation, if you can.*

### ***Christmas Tree Festival 2024 – Sherborne Churches Together***

The Christmas Tree Festival 2024 at Cheap Street Church raised a total of £2838.79 for Rendezvous and Shares, who have received their monies today. That's not quite the whole truth because Rendezvous raised additional monies through the Jazz concert as well. This is a fabulous response from our town to support these great local charities with a bigger impact beyond Sherborne.

Thank you so much to the fabulous Sherborne Churches Together Christmas Tree Committee of volunteers who did an amazing job to organize such a feat and thanks to the sponsors Castle Gardens who donated the trees and all the volunteers from church and community who came to steward. Thank you to the choirs who came and sang, so uplifting.  
*Kate Konrad – Chair of Sherborne Churches Together*

## Dates for your Diary



### **EPIPHANY CELEBRATION**

We will be celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany in the hall after mass on **Sunday, 5th January 2025**. Do please come & join other parishioners, friends, family & visitors as we continue to enjoy the Christmas season with warming mulled wine, mince pies & festive food. Tea & coffee too, of course!

Also, the children of the parish are invited to take part in a tableau during Mass. Readers and children willing to dress up as Kings, Shepherds and Angels etc are needed please. If anyone has any costumes they could lend for that day that also would be much appreciated. *Could any children willing to take part, please be in the church hall by 9.30am on the 5<sup>th</sup> for a practice please!*

### **World Day of Prayer**

The next World Day of Prayer will be held in Sherborne at the Sacred Heart & St Aldhelm Church on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Sherborne Churches Together used to run this every year, but it has not taken place since Covid. We would like 1 or 2 volunteers from each church to jointly organise this for 2025, with a view to holding this event annually in different churches around Sherborne.

## **Cafod**

### **With thanks from CAFOD**

As we approach the feast of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, Prince of Peace, CAFOD would like to send you, our parishioners, their warmest thanks for the kindness and generosity you have shown throughout the year to those in need. You have responded with love and compassion to the many appeals, donating in excess of £1,500. This gift truly changes lives and brings hope where there was once only despair. Thank you again and please continue to pray for a better, fairer world in which peace and justice will flourish.

***From the Plymouth Office :***

**13-17 Year old Residential. January 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2025**

East Shallowford Farm, Dartmoor.

Come and join other 13 -17 year olds from across the Diocese to explore the scripture Job 12:7-10. There will be workshops for you to join in. These include: photography; music; art and filming. East Shallowford is a working farm giving you a chance to meet the animals and feed them. There is a small charge of £50 for the weekend. Contact Saskia Hogbin for further information; [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk) or follow the link to book: <https://forms.office.com/e/xVBd8tV0fG>

**The Church was established by The Religious of Christian Instruction in 1891**

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS:**

Any notices for the newsletter should be e-mailed to the office before 11am Thursday. There is someone in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am – 1.30pm.

**The Church Office, Church Hall, Westbury, Sherborne DT9 3RA - 01935 812021.**

**SICK & HOUSEBOUND VISITS:**

If you or anyone you know is sick or housebound and would like to receive Communion, please **contact Fr Robert 01935 816420** or Sarah Nadasy 01935 816616.

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Kristine Mountain

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS:** Kristine Mountain  
Jennie Haynes

**PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Deacon Jonathan Simon,  
Georgina Bruce, Tricia Chapman,  
Michael Farebrother, Tim Kelly,  
Tess O'Rourke, Lulu Paul.

**HALL BOOKINGS:** Please email or phone the Office