



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
23rd February 2025**



Daily Mass Year 1 – Daily Prayer 3

E-mail: sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk website: 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.

Saturday 22nd	6.00 pm	Celebrant's Intentions
Sunday 23rd	10.30 am	Jim Power RIP
Monday 24th	10.00 am	Charlotte O'Sullivan RIP <i>(Foundation Mass)</i>
Tuesday 25th	10.00 am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday 26th	11.00 am	Requiem – Hilary Jacobs RIP
Thursday 27th	10.00 am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Friday 28th	10.00 am	Kathleen Brivid RIP
Saturday 1st March	6.00 pm	Annamma Kuwian RIP

Confessions on Saturdays 5.00-5.45pm or on request.



Sherborne Churches Together invites us to pray for a particular worshipping community each week. Today we pray for ReBorne Community Church.

We hope that this will bring our Christian family closer together.

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

“Pope and Bishop”

No doubt like me you've been following the news about Pope Francis' health - the coverage can be somewhat varied – optimistic or pessimistic depending on your source. When something like this happens, we all realise how the Pope is a real focus for our faith – the person who in so many ways gives us that real sense of belonging to a community that extends across continents and across time. Although we all have felt more enthusiastic about some Popes rather than others, there is a sense in which the role is primary rather than the individual who has that role.

Nonetheless the individual matters because he makes present the reality. It is part of the Catholic theology of Incarnation – God acting in and through actual people – even people like you and me!

Pope Francis is frail we know – and has had serious illness for much of his life – and yet he can so easily be perceived as a cheerful, positive presence inspiring and encouraging. One image that I hold very dear was that of him at St Peter's during the pandemic, when he took the Blessed Sacrament through the doors of St Peter's and went to the huge, but deserted Square, and blessed the city and the world. It seems right that the individual who, in so many ways, epitomises the Church should be frail and yet cheerful – for me. That is a reminder that we live by faith in the grace of God.

So, we pray for Pope Francis – as we do daily in Mass – and we continue to trust that the Lord will keep us safe through the shepherds he gives us. Which is a reminder to continue praying for a new shepherd for this Diocese – it is approaching three years now since Bishop Mark went to serve as Archbishop of Cardiff, and we still await an appointment. We have been blessed that there have been wise and dedicated people to ensure that all is carried out well in the diocese to keep us all safely in the care of the Church, but it would be good if that care, and pasturing were once again made incarnate in a Bishop.

So do pray for that as well as for Pope Francis. May God bless all of us in this parish and keep us all together as we journey together with the Pope and all the shepherds of the Church in this Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope.

Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time

We pray for the church: for Pope Francis, for a new bishop for this diocese, and for all God's people who proclaim with their lives the teaching of Jesus in the gospel we have heard.

We pray for all those who lead nations that they may be conscious of the needs of the most vulnerable people in their care.

We pray for all those in the parish who have need of our prayers, for our family and friends and those known to us.

We pray for ourselves that we may be a sign and witness to the Lord's command to love all people – even our enemies.

We pray for those who have died: especially those from this parish; that they may share in the very life of God.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 23rd February – seventh Sunday of the year

1 Sam 26,2,7-9,12-13,22-23; Ps 103; 1 Cor 15, 45-49; Luke 6 27-38.

The pairing of the story of David and Saul with the passage from Luke's 'sermon on the plain' is interesting. One can see the Old Testament story as being about not exacting revenge on one who seeks to harm you, yet there is much more to it than that. Abishai sees the situation in a very straight forward way – Saul is out to kill David, that is a problem; Saul is surprisingly found unprotected and asleep: the solution to the 'problem' is to kill the sleeping king – problem solved. David has a different perspective – his concern is that Saul is the Lord's anointed (literally **Christ** in Greek). That means to strike Saul is to strike out at God. David restrains Abishai and takes the water vessel to show Saul that he is not an enemy of the king. What is a fairly particular incident in the book of Samuel, is broadened almost out of recognition in Luke's gospel. "I say to you do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you." And the examples and injunctions continue to an extraordinary extent. Jesus' words go so far beyond the teaching of the Law, and so far beyond what seems in any way reasonable, and yet one cannot avoid their thrust. The enemies Jesus' hearers would have had – like ours today – would not be the anointed king of Israel, and yet they are to be treated as such. Jesus' words in Luke's gospel are arresting because they imply the extraordinary dignity and value of even the most benighted opponent we might encounter – and simply because God is kind to the ungrateful as well as to the grateful. Jesus' command seems extremely extravagant – that is why the reward for those who can carry it out is equally extravagant: "a full measure, pressed down shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap!"

For reflection:

Can you think of any occasions when you have managed to love your enemies? What did you do?

Who do you count as enemies? Why?

**Mass this week in the church
Monday and Friday at 10.00, Requiem Mass for Hilary Jacobs,
Wednesday at 11.00 am**

**Diocesan Jubilee passports “Pilgrims of Hope” are available to
collect from the Sacristy.**

***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. It is customary to give a donation, if you can. If you
require a special date, please provide your telephone number.*

******Please note there will be no website facility as of
next weekend (2nd March).***

***A new system is being looked into and we will update you as soon as
possible. ******

Dates for your Diary

Next Craft Club in the church hall on Saturday 1st March 3.00-4.30pm

'Choosy Craft Club', is open to children of all ages, and their parents, with a variety of craft activities to choose from. Booking is not essential and there is no charge for materials or refreshments.

Please do just come along and join us! *Katya Heygate-Browne*



Our parish CAFOD Group will commence the Lenten Lunches in the Church Hall on Ash Wednesday 5th March 2025. A modest lunch of soup, bread, cheese and fruit will be available for £3.50. Tea and coffee will be also be served. The lunches will be available between 11.30am and 1pm (after morning Mass and the usual coffee).

We will run the lunches throughout Lent and all proceeds will go to CAFOD. We hope that you will be able to join us at some stage over the Lenten period. We will be extending an invitation to all in the area through Sherborne Churches Together. We look forward to seeing you!

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World Day of Prayer – Sherborne Churches Together

The next World Day of Prayer Service will be held at the *Sacred Heart & St Aldhelm Church on 7th March 2025 at 11.15am*, followed by tea/coffee in the hall afterwards.

Sherborne Churches Together used to run this every year, but unfortunately has not been able to since Covid.

As we begin our Lenten preparation for celebrating the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord, we will join in prayer and worship with Christians in thousands of churches around the world, using a liturgy developed by women in the Cook Islands in the Pacific.

From the Plymouth Office:

Assisted suicide: what you can do to defeat the Leadbeater Bill

MPs voted for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill to pass its Second Reading in November. This bill can still be defeated when MPs next vote at the end of April, but we need your help. To find how to best lobby your MP on this issue, please attend a meeting by the SPUC South Devon branch **on Friday, February 28 at 7 pm St Peter's RC Church, St Boniface Lane, Plymouth, PL5 3AX** or **Saturday 1st March at 10.30 a.m. St Joseph's RC Church Hall, 96 Queen St, Newton Abbot. TQ12 2ET Newton Abbot.**

To book or for information contact

Plymouth - Christine Hudson: chrishud78@gmail.com

Newton Abbot - Deborah van Kroonenburg:
deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk or newtonabbot@prcdtr.org.uk

GATHER25 – CELEBRATING THE TEACHING OF VATICAN II

Come and share a weekend of faith, formation and friendship at the annual **Gather Conference** Fri 28th-Sun 30th March, Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay.

David McLoughlin, theologian and lecturer will offer keynote presentations on the four great Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council: Dei Verbum, Sacrosanctum Concilium, Gaudium et Spes and Lumen Gentium.

Booking forms are available from the narthex, facebook or plymouthgather@yahoo.com .



Bookings are open for Stay Awake 2025! - Saturday, 5th April, Venue: All Saints School in Weymouth (Sunnyside Rd, Weymouth DT4 9BJ).

For more information and to book for this exciting, all day Catholic Christian Conference which caters for all ages (children's streams, speakers, workshops, Mass and pizza), please click the link:

<https://www.stayawakejc.com/2025>. and enjoy the website for a taste of this enlivening and spiritually rich day....and please do come - whatever your age - it is for you. Refreshments and pizza in the evening are included but please bring a packed lunch!

This event is free for all children in and below Yr 9 (£10 from Year 10-12 and £12.50 for Adults). We look forward to welcoming YOU!

God bless, *Pippa Worth - on behalf of the 'Stay Awake' Core Team*

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 and Lulu Paul.

HALL BOOKINGS: Please email or phone the Office