



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



3rd May 2026

**Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 1
5th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

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	2nd	6.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	All Holy Union Sisters celebrating jubilees
Monday	4th	10.00am	Mairead Mulligan S.U.S.G, R.I.P.
Tuesday	5th	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	6th	10.00am	All deceased Holy Union Sisters.
Thursday	7th	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Friday	8th	10.00am	Martin & Sharon Hussey & Family intentions
Saturday	9th	4.30pm 6.00pm	Family Rosary All sick Holy Union Sisters



Sherborne Churches together invites us to pray for a particular worshipping community each week.

Today we pray for the parishes of Castleton & Lillington

We hope this brings 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

I hope you'll pardon a little piece of my personal indulgence – this is a poem I first came across at school and have always been fascinated by – I think what I love is the way it challenges me to seek out the depths of understanding and to rejoice in the harmony of its words and sounds.

“The May Magnificat”

by [Gerard Manley Hopkins](#)

May is Mary's month, and I
Muse at that and wonder why :
Her feasts follow reason,
Dated due to season—

Candlemas, Lady Day ;
But the Lady Month, May,
Why fasten that upon her,
With a feasting in her honour ?

Is it only its being brighter
Than the most are must delight her ?
Is it opportunist
And flowers finds soonest ?

Ask of her, the mighty mother :
Her reply puts this other
Question : What is Spring?—
Growth in every thing—

Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass and greenworld all together ;
Star-eyed strawberry-breasted
Throstle above her nested

Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within ;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.

All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathising
With that world of good
Nature's motherhood.

Their magnifying of each its kind
With delight calls to mind
How she did in her stored
Magnify the Lord.

Well but there was more than this :
Spring's universal bliss
Much, had much to say
To offering Mary May.

When drop-of-blood-and-foam-dapple
Bloom lights the orchard-apple
And thicket and thorp are merry
With silver-surfèd cherry

And azuring-over greybell makes
Wood banks and brakes wash wet like lakes
And magic cuckoocall
Caps, clears, and clinches all—

This ecstasy all through mothering earth
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth
To remember and exultation
In God who was her salvation.

God bless us all, and may we rejoice with Our Lady in this season – and
always. - *Fr Robert*

Prayers of the faithful

3rd May 2026 –5th Sunday of Easter

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all God's people, and for all who have the responsibility of leading the Christian people in the ways of faith.

We pray for those in our world whose lives are troubled by fear, hunger, violence and uncertainty: for refugees, for the people of the Middle East and for the people of the Ukraine. May the Lord bring them peace, and may we hold them in our prayer

We pray for all those in the parish who have been baptised or received recently and those confirmed. May the Lord fill them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We pray for ourselves that our love may indeed be real and active and not mere words.

We pray for those who have died: that they may see the face of God.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 3rd May–5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 Ps 32 1Peter 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

Both the gospel and the first reading today raise the issue of the major transitions which led to the development of the Christian faith as proclaimed today. Despite the emphasis that the Hebrew scriptures proclaimed, first century Judaism was a very mixed culture, and one of the key divergences was between those who primarily spoke Greek and those for whom Hebrew or Aramaic was their native tongue. With the language differences also went significant cultural differences. This divergence had also penetrated the infant Christian church, with the resulting grumbling that emerges in today's reading from Acts. There is no question as to who has authority in the Jerusalem church – that is the apostles: those who were Jesus' chosen companions, all of whom had fully Jewish origins. It is for them then to resolve this issue. They are clear that their own priority is to preach, so they make a proposal which they put to the whole community, they invite the selection of seven men to take on the role of serving the community – a

key role as it concerns the use of the funds of the whole community and deals with the care of the needy. It is striking that the names of the seven selected are all names of Greek origin, which suggests that the twelve entrust the care of the widows of the whole community to the ministry of those who first raised the issue. It might seem that “waiting on tables” is not a significant ministry in the life of the community, but once people are entrusted with ministry and have the support of the whole community, they can flourish, and the account in Acts immediately leads to the depiction of Stephen and then Philip preaching and evangelising with great power. The key element in the life of any movement is how it manages with the transition from the original founder to the subsequent generations, and how it moves from a limited local base to engage and embrace people of other backgrounds and cultures. Luke in the Book of Acts is absolutely clear on how that transition is made – through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the whole of the Book shows that. The account we are given today is one part of that process – Luke records that it is accompanied by prayer and the laying on of hands. The passage we read today gives an example of how the transition brings the community of the risen Lord into something we can recognise in today’s faith community.

While the reading from Acts helps us understand the transition of the early community of faith, the gospel is unequivocal in insisting that this does not mean random change of the essentials. Like the good shepherd passage we heard last week, today’s gospel passage from John’s Last Supper discourse insists that it is Jesus who is the **only** way to the Father, the **sole** source of life. It is a (necessary) constant challenge to the church to develop its cultural institution to meet the needs and priorities of the time (the *aggionamento*) (updating) that Pope John XXIII envisaged at Vatican II), but always and only as an authentic way of proclaiming Jesus Christ as the ‘way, the truth and the life.’

For reflection:

Do you appreciate the service of deacons in the Church?

In what ways do you experience or observe the working of the Holy Spirit in the community of faith?

Church Services this week:

Mass in the parish church – Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am

Private prayer with Exposition Tuesday and Thursday 10.00- 11.00am

Dates for your Diary

Craft Club Saturday 2nd May in the church hall, 3.00-4.30pm

Open to children of all ages, and their parents, there is 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

LUNCHES TOGETHER

*The first lunch starts **Wednesday 6th May 2026**. It will be at 11.30 am in the Church Hall. Any funds raised will continue to be split between CAFOD & Rendezvous. We look forward to seeing you there throughout the year!*



Saturday 9th May - Family Rosary at 4.30pm
To honour the month of Our Lady.
All families welcome.

'Scripture Matters'

Our next meeting will be on ***Friday 15th May @ 10.45am-12.15pm.*** Once a month, our small group gathers in the Church Hall to reflect on, and discuss, 'God's Word' in the readings for the following Sunday's celebration of Mass. For further information please contact:

gaybarry39@hotmail.com or 07887 840449.

From the Plymouth Office:

***Heatree Residential 15th - 17th May, 'Go make disciples of all nations'
Matt 28:19***

Heatree is an outdoor activity centre based on Dartmoor. The weekend is open to those aged 9 - 12 (school years 5 - 7). Whilst enjoying high ropes and raft building (amongst other activities) young people will have the chance to explore the Sunday readings through discussion, crafts and games. Cost £90.

To book follow the link: [Heatree 2026 15th-17th May – Fill in form](#)
Further information email: Saskia or Ruby: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

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 it 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.

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 Thursday afternoon. The Secretary is normally 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: Jamie Mead and Jennie Haynes

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Deacon Jonathan Simon,
Georgina Bruce, Tricia Chapman,
Tim Kelly, Tess O'Rourke, Lulu Paul,
Sr. Rose.

HALL BOOKINGS:

Please email or phone the Office.