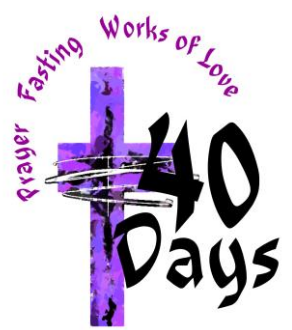




**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
8th March 2026**



Daily Mass Year 2 – Daily Prayer 3

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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	7th	6.00pm	Dennis Campbell R.I.P
Sunday	8th	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	9th	10.00am	Eric Brown R.I.P
Tuesday	10th	10.00-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	11th	10.00am	The Paul Family intentions
Thursday	12th	10.00-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Friday	13th	10.00am 6.00pm	Ernie Davis R.I.P Stations of the Cross
Saturday	14th	4.30pm 6.00pm	Family Stations of the Cross Malcolm Heygate-Brown R.I.P



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

Today we pray for St Mary Magdalene, Castleton and St Martin of Tours, Lillington

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

“Three threes”

The gospel of the woman at the well in John’s gospel is the gospel this weekend and is one of the great catechetical gospels of Lent that talk about faith, but I would like to point out some of the incidentals which tell us quite a lot.

The sixth hour is noon – who goes out in the middle of the day? Mad dogs and Englishmen!

Who would do the heaviest task of the day in the heat of the day? The woman is there because she can’t join the other women at dawn when it is cool – she is ostracised probably!

Jesus sends the disciples away because he is there to keep an appointment – he is waiting for her!

Remarkable three things:

Woman – a rabbi would not touch one or any vessel she has and yet Jesus asks: “give me drink”! – the disciples are taken aback!

Samaritans – would be shunned by good Jews like the plague - but Jesus engages and talks to her.

She has had many husbands – she is vulnerable and damaged. It’s not the case that women could go round collecting men – she has been picked up and dropped – or widowed – time and again.

Three more things:

Jesus talks and she listens – he doesn’t treat her as might be expected – he respects her and acknowledges her value as a person.

She abandons her jar (one of the most valuable things she would have owned) by the well – she has something more important to do

She goes and evangelises others.

Does any of that speak to you and your faith today?

God bless us all, as we journey together through Lent to encounter the Risen Lord who comes to us at Easter.– Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful
8th March 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Lent.

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all God's people who have been called to make Christ present in the world.

We pray for those whose lives are affected by the war and tension in the Middle East, and we pray for peace and reconciliation.

We pray for all those in the parish who have need of our prayers, and for our families, our friends, and our neighbours.

We pray for ourselves that as we journey towards Easter, we may drink from the living water that the Lord offers.

We pray for those who have died: that they may be raised to eternal life.

Please pray for:
Those preparing to receive the sacraments at Easter.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection
Sunday 8th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent
Ex 17:3-7 Ps 94 Rom 5:1-2; 5-8 Jn 4:5-42

Luke's parable of the "Good Samaritan" would have been striking for those who heard Jesus speak it because of the low regard of Jews for Samaritans. John's gospel for today would have had the same effect, but perhaps more so as the Samaritan in this case is a woman (whom a Rabbi should not approach) and whose marital status is certainly dodgy. Typically, of John's gospel, the conversation operates at two levels which the reader appreciates much more quickly than the woman Jesus talks to. Water – which is essential to all life – is a powerful symbol for the fulness of life which Jesus offers those who meet him. The conversation concludes with Jesus announcing that he is indeed the Messiah whom she – like all people – awaits. The encounter of the woman with Jesus has a powerful impact. Her actions express her response. John records that the woman "put down her water jar" – an essential item of domestic life - and abandons it in order to hurry back to tell others about the

man she has met. It is significant that we are told that many from the town went to meet Jesus on the strength of the woman's testimony, but their acceptance of Jesus was not based on her testimony – or that of anyone else: "we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world." For John it is always important that each person must encounter Jesus for themselves and come to know him directly – faith in Jesus cannot be something we have second hand.

For reflection:

*Do you find the imagery of water one that speaks to you of life with God?
In what ways do you think you are like the woman at the well? In what ways is
your response too Jesus as strong?*

Church Services this week:

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

Private prayer and exposition – Tuesday and Thursday 10.00 - 11.00am

Confessions – Saturday 5.00 – 5.45pm and on request

During Lent at Mass

We will use the refrain "Angels Saints and nations sing" – the refrain from the hymn "Hail Redeemer King divine" - as the gospel acclamation, except on Sundays.

***We will use "save us Saviour of the world" as the Memorial Acclamation.
Thank you.***

+ Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children +

On **Saturday 7th March at 10.30am** Fr. Robert is holding a Sacrament of Reconciliation service for all children of the parish.

This will be the same format as First Confession and particularly for those who have made their first communion in the last few years may find this a more familiar experience. There is no need to register interest just arrive on the day.

LENTEN ALMS

Our Lenten Alms collections this year will be to support 'Access to Clean Water' project in Cameroon and for Lepra

A little message from the 'Holy Union Sisters'

Many thanks to our Parish Pastoral Council for letting us appeal to you for support in providing clean water in Baba [a town of 10,000 people] in North-West Cameroon, an area which, due to ongoing civil conflict, and climate-change, is under great stress. Many years ago in Baba our Sisters established a Health Centre – 'St Monica's'. Three Wells used to supply water for everyone in the Baba area; now only one Well functions. We hope to build a new Well – which would supply water for all local people in Baba, and service our Health Centre.... It would be the means of providing better health through improved sanitation and hygiene, and prevent water-borne diseases.

Thank you most sincerely for your interest and all your prayer and support for our people in Baba.

(See the posters in the narthex, or contact Gay gaybarry39@hotmail.com for more information).

LEPRA

Leprosy is not a disease of the past. It still exists but it is curable. Leprosy is caused by a type of bacteria called Mycobacterium leprae and can affect the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes.

According to the WHO, it is a 'neglected tropical disease' (NTD) which still occurs in more than 120 countries, with more than 200 000 new cases reported every year.

Please help by supporting this vital work. More information can be found on their website at: www.lepra.org.uk

CAFOD would like to thank everyone for their generous donations for our Family Fast Day appeal and for your heartfelt prayers for the work we do. Thank you again!

Dates for your Diary

Lenten Lunches every Wednesday during Lent

11:30am - 1:00pm.

You are welcome to come and join our generous and loyal lunchers to socialise and share a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese in solidarity with the poor and disadvantaged. *A minimum donation of £4 requested please.* This year, your donations will be shared equally between CAFOD and The Rendezvous (a Sherborne based charity providing well being and learning support for young people aged 14-25).

Stations of the Cross

Will take place on Fridays during Lent at 6pm.

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Family Stations of the Cross, with our Holy Communion children, will take place on Saturday 14th March at 4.30pm. All families welcome!



Craft Club Saturday 7th March in the church hall 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*

'Scripture Matters'

Our next meeting will be on ***Friday 13th March*** @ 10.45am-12.15pm. Once a month, our small group gathers in the Sacred Heart & St Aldhelm 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:

Gather 2026

20th-22nd March 2026 at Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay

This year's theme is 'I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live' and our speakers include Avril Baigent (School for Synodality) and Fleur Dorrell (The God who Speaks).

We are delighted that we will also be joined by Bishop Nicholas as we journey together synodally - we'd love you to join us too!

Booking forms are available by emailing: plymouthgather@yahoo.com

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 REP:

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.