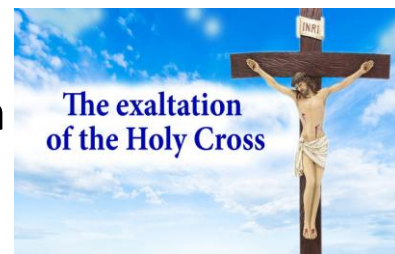




**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
14th September 2025**



FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Daily Mass Year 1 – Daily Prayer 4

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	13th	6.00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	14th	10.30 am 3.00pm	David Pedrick RIP Mass with Anointing of the Sick
Monday	15th	10.00 am	Sr. Rose's Intentions
Tuesday	16th	6.30pm	For our parish
Wednesday	17th	10.00 am	Fr. Michael Hayes RIP
Thursday	18th	10.00 am	Private prayer & Exposition
Friday	19th	10.00 am	Sarah & Oliver Nadasy's Intentions
Saturday	20th	6.00 pm	Sr. Carmel RIP



Sherborne Churches together invites us to pray for a particular worshipping community each week. Today we pray for Society of Friends, Sherborne. We hope that this will bring our Christian family closer together.

**** Children's Liturgy Group will recommence
on Sunday 14th September. ****

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

“Still waiting for a Bishop”

I want to start by saying that it's not our fault – it's not something terrible we've done, it's not that this Diocese is so awful or has a terrible reputation, or anything like that. But it is well over three years since we had a bishop, and that is really quite exceptional and makes life very difficult and quite unsettled for the communities of the Diocese.

So people ask me “When will get a new bishop?” “Why is it taking so long?”

And I don't have any real answers, because although I am one of the small group of Diocesan “consultors”, we do get consulted, but we don't get any information about how things are going. When Bishop Mark was appointed to Cardiff as Archbishop (over three years ago) the eleven consultors, who are the canons of the chapter of the Cathedral, met and elected a Diocesan Administrator to look after the Diocese, and Canon Paul Cummins was elected and accepted the post. The consultors then were asked to consider the needs of the Diocese, the particular issues facing it, and the strengths and challenges existing at the time. They were asked what qualities they felt were needed by someone taking on the role of the Bishop, and asked to submit three names as possible candidates. After meeting, reflecting and praying we came up with a document which was sent to the Papal Nuncio (the Pope's representative in England and Wales), to the Archbishop of Southwark (the Archbishop overseeing the Southern Dioceses) and Cardinal Vincent.

After some time, we were told that the Holy Father had appointed a named priest to the post. However, there was a problem, and he stood down. There followed another period of waiting and then another person was named for the diocese, who came and visited, but then he stood down. Nothing of the reasons why the two didn't get the appointment was given to us.

Then after another period of waiting, we were told that the process had to begin again, and we had to submit a new statement about the needs of the diocese, the qualities of the bishop, and three names. We met, prayed, discussed and have done that.

So, that is where we are now. We carry on waiting, we carry on praying, and we carry on ensuring that the Diocese runs as well as it can, that God's people are nourished with the sacraments, that the resources of the Diocese are safeguarded and life continues. I won't say "watch this space" but I am sure that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will get a new Bishop and the life of the Church here will continue to flourish.

God bless us all – and help us appreciate living in this part of God's vineyard and rejoicing in one another – and continue praying for a Bishop.

- Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

14th September – 24th Sunday of the year

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all those who glory in the cross of Christ.

We pray for those in our world whose lives are crucified through hunger for food, security, love and for consolation – may the Lord lift them up.

We pray for our families, for those dear to us and for those we know in need.

We pray for ourselves that we may live out our Christian faith in witness to Christ crucified and Risen in glory.

We pray for those who have died: that they may share in the Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 14th September – Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Nb 21:4-9 Ps 77 Ph 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

The desert experience was fundamental in forming the people of Israel. The forty years were schooling in coming to know God and God's ways. The lessons were often harsh and had to be repeated. Time and again Moses "stood in the breach" to defend the recalcitrant Hebrews, time and again God offered new opportunities –and new insights. On this occasion, the punishment for the "murmuring" against God is the visitation of fierce serpents which kill. The antidote is also a serpent – this time a bronze serpent fashioned and set upon a pole the sight of which brings healing and life. When Jesus talks to Nicodemus in the Gospel, he points to this incident and its significance and applies it to himself. If a bronze serpent lifted up on high can bring healing and life, how much more will that be true of the Son of Man, given by the Father so that the world may have life? Jesus is lifted on the cross on high by his executioners, but the true lifting up of Jesus is done by God who "raised him high, and gave him the name which is above all names."

For reflection:

*Do you have a cross or crucifix on display in your home? Why?
Do you spend time reflecting on why a symbol of death (the cross) should
be a sign of hope for Christians?*

Church Services this week:

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

Tuesday – 6.30pm followed by parish Cheese and wine

Private prayer and exposition – Thursday: 10.00 - 11.00am

Confessions – Saturday 5.00 – 5.45pm and on request

***Diocesan Jubilee passports "Pilgrims of hope" are available for you to
collect in the sacristy.***

Dates for your Diary

Mass with Anointing of the Sick

Sunday 14th September at 3pm.

Please join us for this very special service, followed by refreshments in the hall.

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**Youth Rally, 20th September** - a minibus has been provided to pick up from our church and bring us back.

All attending to be at church by 10.30am please, with a packed lunch +drinks bottle.

Any issues please email Christina on: [cduarte83@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cduarte83@hotmail.co.uk).

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'Scripture Matters'

Our next meeting will be on Friday 26-09-25 @ 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.

FILM NIGHT

*We warmly invite everyone (children and parents alike!) for our next film night! It will be on **Friday 3rd October at 5.30pm**. We hope to see lots of you there; snacks and comfy pillows/blankets are welcome!*

Olympia Pudelko.



Please join the Harvest Celebrations that will take place in the hall after mass on **Sunday 5 October 2025**. There will be a buffet of light refreshments and wine. Notices for donations of food will be put up in the narthex nearer the time.

If you feel able to help organise this event, please contact:

Tricia Chapman on pcchapman@hotmail.com or 01935 602279.

A message from Cath Adam, Cheap St Church:

Red Cross Gaza Appeal - on 21st September, Sherborne Sunday Market, there will be a stall outside the Pod, 54 Cheap St, giving away cakes for donations to the Gaza Appeal.

We would be very grateful for cupcakes, tray bakes etc which can be brought to the Pod, Friday 19th, between 10am-12noon, 1pm-3pm, or Saturday 20th, 10am-12noon. In June we raised £600 and we'd like to match or exceed that. Thank you!



For any parent who wishes their child/children to make their First Holy Communion on Sunday 7th June 2026 (the feast of Corpus Christi); we plan to commence sessions in November. Please let us know if you wish your child/children to attend. Thank you!

Contact:

Maeve Moriarty

Mobile: 07719760401

email: mrs.maeve.moriarty@gmail.com

or:

The Church office

Telephone 01935 812021

email: sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk.

Are you interest in finding out about becoming a Catholic?

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in knowing more about the Catholic Christian Faith, you are welcome to join a small group to find out more. ***Please speak to Deacon Jonathan (on 07826 815847), or Father Robert.***

CAFOD Feedback on the Cancel Debt, Choose Hope Global Church petition

Thank you to everyone who was able to sign our petition in July and for all your prayers for a just outcome to this campaign. We had a powerful response from the parish (over 150 signatures), which was sent to CAFOD to be used at meetings with the World Bank and other international organisations as well as copied to our MP.

For those who would still like to know more, go to:

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/the-new-debt-crisis>

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.

From the Plymouth Office:

The September Diocesan Newsletter is now available to download here. <https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-299C8CDB6B23A5C32540EF23F30FEDED>

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 normally 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,
Tim Kelly, Tess O'Rourke and Lulu Paul.

HALL BOOKINGS: Please email or phone the Office