



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
1ST November 2026
Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 3
ALL SAINTS**



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

**The Parish Office
is open on Wednesday & Friday mornings -
(emails and telephone calls are monitored all week)**

Saturday	31st	6.00pm	Celebrant's intention
Sunday	1st Nov	10.30am	All Saints Day
Monday <i>All Souls Day</i>	2nd	10.00am	All Souls Recently deceased members of the Holy Union Sisters
Tuesday	3rd	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	4th	10.00am	Kieron Maguire R.I.P
Thursday	5th	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Friday	6th	10.00am	Harold Ennis R.I.P
Saturday	7th	6.00pm	Repose of the soul of Antoni Kubish R.I.P

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

Today we pray for ReBorne Community Church

We hope this brings our Christian family 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

“Leweston”

The news that broke on Tuesday that the school at Leweston would close with immediate effect has shocked and stunned so many people here. I certainly had no foreknowledge that things were bad, or that drastic decision would be taken. I am sure we are all thinking of the students and staff whose lives have been turned upside down, and the anxiety and sadness and sense of loss that is everywhere.

In the parish the presence of the school in one form or another has been a solid presence since 1891. The Religious of Christian Instruction who came to Sherborne and have been here ever since, did so with the purpose of offering Catholic education to the people of the town and surrounding area, and the parish developed alongside that mission.

I know an immediate response is to ask ‘Why?’ and to be saddened, and our thoughts and prayers should be for the young lives and the dedicated staff whose lives have been interrupted and changed so suddenly, and they must be the focus of our concern.

At the same time, even though we don’t understand how the great loss has come about, we should be grateful for 135 years of dedication and commitment that has gone on. We should give thanks for the countless generations of young people whose lives were enriched and expanded by their time at Leweston. We should be encouraged and inspired by the selfless labour of the sisters and staff who faithfully carried on the mission of the founding sisters, and we should ask what we, as a parish, can do to carry on that mission in a new way today.

“November – praying for the dead”

On Monday the Church celebrates All Souls, and on that day and for the rest of November we are invited to pray for those who have died in the Church. It is a special time of prayer for Catholics when we will visit graves, light candles and pray for family and friends who are no longer with us. It is a special time for Catholics, but I never see it as morbid or depressing. In my lifetime many dear members of my family, and many close friends have died, and I remember them vividly and with great affection. I suspect like me, you have photos and mementoes in your house, and certainly in your memory of those you have loved and who have died. And they are still important to us, and so we still pray for them, as we pray for our living family and friends. We do so because our faith is that when we die, we go to the Lord and the Lord, who is the Lord of life, will bring them to eternal life. In the funeral Mass the final commendation of the departed concludes:

Merciful Lord

Turn towards us and listen to our prayers:

Open the gates of paradise to your servant

And help us who remain

To comfort one another with assurances of faith,

Until we all meet in Christ and are with you and our brother/sister for ever.

- You are invited to take an envelope marked “Month of the Holy Souls” and place a list of your dear departed ones in it. The envelopes will be brought up with the Offertory gifts and placed before the altar as a sign of our prayers for the dead.
- On Monday after the 10.00 Mass – weather permitting – some of us will gather in Sherborne cemetery in the right-hand bottom corner where the first sisters are buried and process through the old and new cemetery blessing graves and praying for those who lie there. All are welcome to join.

God bless you and all those you mourn - *Fr Robert*

Prayers of the faithful

1st November – All Saints

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all God's people, called to be saints and share their faith in Jesus Christ.

We pray for those in our world who give themselves unstintingly in government, health care, teaching and the law to serve their fellow citizens. May the Lord bless them in their service of others.

We pray for all those in the parish who have need of our prayers, especially those affected by the closure of Leweston, and for our families, and all those known to us, that we give them the support and help they need.

We give thanks to God for all musicians, artists and those who lift our spirits through their art and inspire us to recognise the presence of God in our daily lives.

We pray for those who have died from our families, our friends and from this parish and our local community that they may see God face to face.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 1st November – All Saints

Feast of All Saints

Rev 7:2-4; 9-14. Ps 23 1Jn 3:13 Mt 5:1-12

The scope of the readings for this feast is all encompassing. We have the grandeur and spectacle of the countless elect worshipping the Lamb from the book of the Apocalypse. We have the intimacy of the first letter of John where we are reminded of the love that has been given to each of us by the heavenly Father; and we have the paradox of the Beatitudes where those who mourn and those who are persecuted are called happy.

The feast *seems* to invite us to celebrate the holy women and men who have triumphed over sin and temptation and fulfilled their calling as disciples. That, however, is not necessarily the most helpful insight: it could also be discouraging to those of us who are very conscious of our infidelity and weakness in the face of temptation. The focus of any celebration of the Church is ultimately always God, and All Saints is precisely about God and what God has done in the lives of frail human beings. The countless elect in John's vision rejoice precisely because they are redeemed *in the blood of the Lamb* – it is the Lord who has enabled them to gather at the throne of God. In the second reading it is the love of God lavished on the saints that enables them to be truly 'the children of God'. The people of the Beatitudes are not those who have achieved their state by will-power and strength, but always and only through grace. When the Church celebrates saints, she is always celebrating what God has done for the innumerable children who have been begotten in the love of the Father. And what God has done in love for the countless number of those we call saints, God can – and wills – to do in love for all – even those of us who are so conscious of our infidelity and weakness.

For reflection:

In what ways do you feel that you are called to be one of the saints of God?

In what ways do you experience that in your day-to-day life?

Church Services this week

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

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

Please pray

For the students and staff of St Antony's Leweston at this difficult time.

Thank you

To the silent and secret garden angels who have been busy keeping the church grounds welcoming and attractive – it is very much appreciated and shows that the church is loved by the parishioners.

Parish Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 3rd Church Cleaning Group – 11.15am

Please do join us if you are able. (This earlier time will continue for the winter months).

Wednesday 4th Friends Together Lunch - from 11.30am

Donations will be shared equally between CAFOD and The Rendezvous (a Sherborne based charity).

Friday 6th Mum's group - 10.30am – 12.30pm in the church hall.

Whether you have a baby, school-aged children, teenagers, or a mix of everything, you are very welcome. We'll have **tea, coffee, and cake**, and something to keep the children happy too, with **toys, colouring, and activities**. *No need to book, just pop in! We'd love you to join us!*

Katherine Steele

Friday 6th Quiz – 6.30 for 7pm start,
Max 6 per team, £3 entry for CAFOD, Bring own refreshments.

Saturday 7th Craft Club in the church hall, 3.00-4.30pm.

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

Friday 13th Concert - 7pm

A concert of classical music favourites presented by *Alan Benson and Hannah O'Toole-Terry* with musicians from the parish. (Free entry with a retiring collection, drinks and refreshments served in the hall afterwards).

From the Plymouth Office:

Parish Secretary – Sacred Heart & St Aldhelm Church, Sherborne



We are recruiting a Parish Secretary for Sacred Heart & St Aldhelm Church, Sherborne reporting to the Parish Priest.

The purpose of the role is to manage the administrative and secretarial support alongside the office resources to ensure the smooth running of the Parish and to enable the Parish Priest to carry out his Diocesan responsibilities. If you have good knowledge of and experience using Microsoft Office applications, including Word, Outlook and Teams, along with excellent organisational skills and the ability to act as a key representative for the Diocese of Plymouth, we would love to hear from you!

12 hours a week · Salary: £14.50 an hour

Closing date: **Wednesday 11 November 2026**

To apply, please contact recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk to obtain an application form and job description. Applications are by covering letter and application form to recruitment@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 Wednesday and Friday mornings.

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, Lulu Paul, Sr. Rose.

HALL BOOKINGS:

Please email or phone the Office.