



**Catholic Parish of  
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm  
Sherborne  
26<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 1**



E-mail: [sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk) website: [www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org](http://www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org)

**\*\*Please note the Parish Office is closed this week\*\***

|                  |                           |                   |                                                        |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>25<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>6.00pm</b>     | <b>People of the Parish</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>26<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>10.30am</b>    | <b>Anne Kennedy R.I.P (Anniversary)</b>                |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>27<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>12.00noon</b>  | <b>Requiem Mass – John Boodle<br/>R.I.P</b>            |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>28<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>10-11.00am</b> | <b>Private prayer &amp; Exposition</b>                 |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>29<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>10.00am</b>    | <b>Jeanne Denton Williams, R.I.P<br/>(Anniversary)</b> |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>30<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>10-11.00am</b> | <b>Private prayer &amp; Exposition</b>                 |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>31<sup>st</sup></b>    | <b>10.00am</b>    | <b>Patrick Beardsmore R.I.P<br/>(Anniversary)</b>      |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Aug</b> | <b>6.00pm</b>     | <b>Father Robert's Ordination day.</b>                 |

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

***Today we pray for: St. Paul's 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*

## ***“Like a dry weary land without water”***

The responsorial Psalm for the feast of St Mary Magdalene last week was number 63 – a very well-known psalm which is used often in morning prayer in all the great feasts and seasons of the year. The line quoted above certainly struck several of us as we contemplated how dry and sad the gardens and countryside look in the current heat wave. But the psalm has a much more profound basis for meditation. Much of the text is one half of a dialogue between the person who prays and the God who hears. The first reading for Mary Magdalene was from the Song of Songs, which is also in part a dialogue between the believer and the Lord.

That tradition of being in dialogue in love with another is a familiar theme in all love poetry, but also in spiritual writing. The Psalm we are talking of begins:

“O God you are my God for you I long,  
for you my soul is yearning,  
like a dry weary land without water.”

That idea of yearning for God, like one can yearn for the presence of the beloved, is found in much spiritual writing, perhaps culminating in the poetry of the Carmelite saint, John of the Cross.

These texts of scripture are chosen for the feast of Mary Magdalene because she was perceived to have a great and profound love for Jesus. Perhaps that is something we are all invited to reflect on – we are used to so many ways of thinking about God: as king, as shepherd, as the caring rabbi, as the one who heals and forgives – but I wonder if we ponder God as lover, as the beloved for whom we yearn?

I am sure (I hope) that we have all had experience of human love, and how important it is for us, and how life-changing it can be. Love of God – and more importantly – God’s love for us must far surpass that, but probably it is not an aspect of our faith that impinges most of the time. It might be worthwhile finding such examples in the scriptures and spiritual writing and allow them to nourish our relationship with God, the beloved.

*God bless us all and may we all rejoice in the love of God poured out in Jesus - Fr Robert*

### **Prayers of the faithful**

26<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all who profess one Lord, one faith and one baptism.

We pray for those in our world whose lives are a constant struggle that the Lord may respond to their need.

We pray for all those in the parish who are sick and housebound, all those who support them, and all whom we know and love.

We pray for ourselves that we may be fed by the Lord who comes in Word and Sacrament

We pray for those who have died: that they may share in the eternal banquet.

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***Please keep in your prayers John Boodle, whose funeral it is on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>, and all his family and friends. May he rest in peace.***

## **Sunday Readings – a brief reflection**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July- Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

The parables that we are given in Matthew's gospel are many and varied, and sometimes they are given to the crowds – who generally do not understand – and sometimes they are given just to the disciples. That is the case with these three parables – despite the opening of today's passage, which the editors of the Lectionary suggest are addressed to the crowds. These are for the disciples. That is important because they are those who are the ones who bring from the storeroom things both new and old. That is to say that those who follow Jesus are those who understand the promises of scripture (the Old Testament) in the light of the Revelation of Christ. Matthew - more than any other evangelist – is at pains to reveal how the promises of the past (the 'old' things) are fulfilled in the light of Christ – think of the great Old Testament readings of the Easter Vigil read by the light of the Paschal candle (the 'new' thing). The three parables that the disciples understand are all eschatological – they are about possessing now what will only be complete at the end of time – the treasure and the pearl of great price are on offer here and now for those who will give up everything, but like the sorting of the fish in the dragnet the revealing of that is in the future. The "scribe who becomes a disciple" understands this. He is imbued with the Wisdom which ultimately comes from God – as Solomon knew. When we ponder the parables today, we are not trying to work out riddles, but are given insight into how to interpret the past and the present in the light of final fulfilment of Christ already enacted through the Paschal Mystery.

*For reflection:*

*Are there some parables that you feel challenged by?*

*Are these three some of those?*

*Are you someone who brings out of the storeroom things both old and new?*

*Do you see past events – perhaps in your own life – in the light of your present faith and your future hope?*

## ***Church Services this week:***

***Mass in the parish church – Monday - Requiem Mass 12 noon***

***Wednesday and Friday at 10.00am***

***Private prayer with Exposition Tuesday and Thursday 10.00 - 11.00am***

***The Mystery of faith acclamation: “We proclaim your death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection until you come again”***

### ***A message from Andrew Houseley:***

**Our small parish group** is looking for new members to rejuvenate the group which has been meeting for nearly 25 years.

We meet one evening a month and we normally sing a hymn, read the Gospel for the next Sunday, pray quietly and then share what it has meant to us. We pray for the intentions of the group and finish with tea and biscuits and a chat.

Being a member of the group has enriched my personal faith. Our meetings are a precious time when I can listen to God’s word, share what it means to me and listen to what it means to the other members - having my intentions prayed for by the group is powerful for me.

*If you are interested in learning more or in joining us for a meeting, please contact Andrew Houseley on [andrewhouseley@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewhouseley@btinternet.com).*

## Dates for your Diary

THERE ARE NO UP AND COMING EVENTS FOR A FEW WEEKS -  
AS EVERYONE IS TAKING A WELL-EARNED SUMMER BREAK...



...TO YOU ALL!

### *From the Plymouth Office:*

Here is the link to our diocesan newsletter for July/August

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-47E6F88D98A22DCD2540EF23F30FEDED>

### **Catechetical Summer Camp 2026**

27th - 31st July, Buckfast Abbey.

At this years Summer Camp young people aged 9-12 will explore Pope Francis and Pope Leo's Dilexi Te - 'I love you'. Summer camp has been enjoyed by many generations. It is a great way for young people to meet others from across the Diocese and gain a sense of belonging to the Diocesan and catholic family.

Cost £150 per person. To book and for further information please email:

[summercamps@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:summercamps@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.*

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**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, Lulu Paul, Sr. Rose.

**HALL BOOKINGS:**

Please email or phone the Office.