



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
29th March 2026**



**Daily Mass Year 2 – Daily Prayer 2
PALM SUNDAY
HOLY WEEK**

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	28th	6.00pm	Fr. Michael Downey R.I.P <i>(Foundation Mass)</i>
Sunday	29th	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	30th	10.00am	Hannah Ryan RIP <i>(Foundation Mass)</i>
Tuesday	31st	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	1st <i>(Chrism Mass @Cathedral)</i>	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Thursday	2nd <i>Holy Thursday</i>	7.00pm	<i>The Lord's Supper</i>
Friday	3rd <i>Good Friday</i>	10.30am 3.00pm	<i>Walk of Witness</i> <i>Passion of the Lord</i>
Saturday	4th <i>Holy Saturday</i>	9.00pm	<i>Easter Vigil</i>



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

Today we pray for St. James The Great, Longburton
We pray 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

“The Passion”

This weekend we follow Jesus on his journey to Calvary, we do so in the company of St Matthew, the evangelist for this year. We do the journey again on Good Friday with St John whose account of the Passion we hear every Good Friday. The fact that we are given two long accounts of the Passion should ensure that we understand that this is a most significant event for us.

We read in the Letter to the Hebrews that Christ is like us in all things but sin. That matters because it helps us identify with him and also recognise the ways in which he is like us. That recognising is important because they remind us that so many of our characteristics we share with the incarnate Saviour.

It is not difficult to be saddened, offended and hurt at the treatment meted out to Jesus on his way to Calvary – and so many of them, we can recognise because we have experienced a version of them. At the beginning while still at table with his friends, Jesus is betrayed by someone close to him. Perhaps that has been your experience. Certainly, in some ways they have never really understood him, or appreciated what he was trying to tell them. Probably we have all had the experience of close friends not understanding us. When things get difficult, they simply run away. Have you been abandoned by your family and friends precisely when you needed them the most?

Jesus is taken to the Sanhedrin and to Pilate and hauled about by guards and police and officials, and they mock him and ridicule him and laugh at him. That’s a horrid experience when you are afraid and alone, I think we’d all agree. And then there is the brutality and pain – something none of us would like, but we would recognise it. There is little pity, little awareness, little sympathy, but plenty of hostility and abuse – and that is never easy to bear as we all know.

And finally, there is the end and death – something we probably all have dreaded to some extent. We look on Christ in his Passion, not just to listen to a nasty story, but because we can recognise something of our selves in the description, something of the times when similar, if minor, injuries and taunts were heaped on us. We may well find it difficult to identify with Christ in his power and wisdom, when he calms the sea or feeds the crowd, but I suspect we can easily identify with him in his anguish and pain – because that experience we know.

So when we hear the Passion account this Sunday and next Friday, allow yourself to be moved and horrified and upset, because the Passion is given to us precisely for that purpose that we might identify with Jesus and recognise what he goes through simply out of love, and perhaps that might stir love in us for him and for one another.

God bless us all, as we journey together with Christ through his Passion before we encounter Jesus as the Risen Lord who comes to us at Easter.

- Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

29th March 2026 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all God's people gathered to celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and his life-giving Passion and Resurrection.

We pray for those in our world who live in fear and under threat; we remember especially the people in the Middle East, in Ukraine and the victims of terrorism, and all those seeking to bring relief to the peoples across the world.

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

We pray for those preparing to receive the sacraments of the Church over the Easter season, may they be blessed by the Lord and may their witness enrich the whole parish.

We pray for ourselves that we who welcome Christ into the Holy City may be welcomed By Christ into his Eternal City

Please pray for:

Thelma Horsley from this parish who has recently died and for her family. May she rest in peace. The funeral will be after Easter.

Those preparing to receive the sacraments at Easter.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Mt 21:1-11. Is 50:4-7 Ps 21 Ph 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27:66

The structure of the Liturgy today has a particular significance for those taking part. The people are invited to hear the account of the entry into Jerusalem of the Lord, and their palms and the singing in the procession encourage them to identify with the crowds who welcomed Jesus. However, in the gospel of the Passion – which both the Missal and the Lectionary envisage the people as participants - finds them identified as the crowd who shout not 'Hosanna' but 'crucify him!' The constitution on the Liturgy from the Second Vatican council emphasised the conscious participation of the lay faithful in the Liturgy of the Church – this is a specific example where those gathered are reminded that they are not passive onlookers but are caught up in the very Mysteries they celebrate. This year in Matthew's gospel the opportunity to contemplate our involvement is particularly striking. We can note Matthew's sense of drama (the reluctance of Pilate and the hostility of the crowd, and the powerful account of the events accompanying the moment of death) and also the striking language, elements of which (thirty pieces of silver, washing his hands) have carried over into secular language so powerful is their resonance. The passion challenges each listener to reflect on

their own relationship to Christ, and can challenge that relationship: is it just following the crowd? Is it betraying for gain? Is it abandoning the one who seems to have failed? Is it washing hands for convenience? Matthew also brings unique elements to his account of the Passion; we hear the fate of Judas and his contrition, we are told of Pilate's wife – a pagan who (like the Magi at the beginning of Matthew's gospel) recognises the significance of Christ when those who should know fail to do so. The readings from Isaiah and the letter to the Philippians are also powerful comments on the Passion account and again invite us to reflect on what we hear and challenge us to recognise in it the Mystery we celebrate every time we come together to “proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes”.

For reflection:

Do you find the idea of being part of the action challenging or encouraging?

Who of the many figures in Matthew's account do you identify with in the Passion?

Church Services this week:

Mass in the parish church – Monday 10.00am

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Friday Passion of the Lord 3pm

Saturday Easter Vigil 9pm

Holy Week

Apart from services here, you might like to attend the Diocesan Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on Wednesday 1st April 12 noon (live streamed).

Walk of Witness Sherborne 10.30am from top of Cheap Street.

Confessions – Thursday and Saturday 28th 10.00 - 11.00am with exposition and Saturday 5.00 – 5.45pm, and on request.

Dates for your Diary

SPRING CLEANING

We are grateful to members of the cleaning group for sprucing up the Sacristy, Organ Loft, Upper Room and Gallery.

On Tuesday 31st March at 2pm they will be polishing pews and cleaning kneelers in readiness for Easter.

Any more helping hands would be most welcome!



Craft Club Saturday 4th April 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*

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'Scripture Matters'

Our next meeting will be on Friday 10th April @ 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.*

EASTER FLOWERS

We are looking forward to selecting church flowers for Easter. Butterfly Ranunculus was a favourite last year.



Cashless giving is available and baskets for donations are in the narthex and side chapel lobby. *Thank you from the Flower Team!*

CHURCH GARDEN

It has been necessary to clear a small part of the church garden near the rear entrance which was overgrown with brambles etc. This has revealed large amounts of sedge grass which could damage the fabric of the church building.

After consultation with a horticulturist, the sedge grass will be removed and the bed cleaned. A small amount of soil will be added to make up levels by the circle. It will then be dressed with mushroom compost to rejuvenate the soil. Once ready for planting, foliage and flowers can be chosen which will be both attractive and useful for cutting.

From the Plymouth Office:

There is a chocolate making workshop *on Saturday 11th April at St Mary's Poole, Dorset. The event will start at 10.00am and finish around 3pm.* Young people aged 10 - 17 are invited to explore the catholic social teaching around farming, selling and marketing of chocolate. As part of the workshop they will explore the ingredients that make chocolate and make some themselves. This chocolate will be used to make Florentines. Young people who wish to take part in this workshop must complete an

<https://forms.office.com/e/f3stHqurZQ> (a contribution of £10 per person please).

For any further information please contact: **Saskia Hogbin, Youth Events and Youth Ministry 01364 645401** Email: saskia.hogbin@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 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.