



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
10th May 2026**



**Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 2
6th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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	9th	4.30pm 6.00pm	Family Rosary All sick Holy Union Sisters
Sunday	10th	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	11th	10.00am	Sister Rose & her Family intentions
Tuesday	12th	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	13th	10.00am	
Thursday	14th	10.00am 6.30pm	Sarah & Oliver Nadasy- intentions
<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>			
Friday	15th	10.00am	Thelma Horsley R.I.P.
Saturday	16th	6.00pm	Celebrant's Intentions

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



Today we pray for Cheap Street Church

We hope 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

“Novena”

The word *Novena* is rooted in the Latin word for nine. The practice of the novena is based in early Christianity, where Masses were held for nine days with devotional prayers for the deceased. Over time, members of the [Roman Catholic](#) faith began to associate novena with Christian themes such as the nine months Jesus spent in the womb, the giving-up of His spirit at the ninth hour during the [crucifixion](#), and, above all, the nine days that passed between the [Ascension of Jesus](#) and the descent of the [Holy Spirit](#) on the first Christians at [Pentecost](#). In the [New Testament](#), this biblical event is often quoted from [Acts of the Apostles](#), 1:12–2:5.

The novena to the Holy Spirit is held between Ascension Thursday and [Pentecost](#) in commemoration of when the disciples gathered in the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer; it is considered the first novena. There are a number of ways to pray the Pentecost Novena. One might pray the Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours each day, the "[Come, Holy Spirit](#)" or other prayers.

By standard liturgical norms, novenas may be performed in church, at home, or anywhere where solemn prayers are appropriate, though some indulgenced novenas require church attendance. Sometimes, a special candle or incense is lit at the beginning of the novena, which burns during the nine days of prayer.

The first chapter of the *General Principles* of [Sacrosanctum Concilium](#), of the [Second Vatican Council](#) (1962–1965) sought to give guidance on the place of novenas in Christian piety:

Devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonise with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses any of them.

Novena prayers typically include a praise of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary or another saint, and a personal petition. Novenas have been a widespread practice in Catholic history.

A novena is a ritualistic devotional worship where one or more Christian devotees make petitions, implore favours, or obtain graces by honouring [Jesus Christ](#), [Virgin Mary](#) or the saints of the faith who are believed to empower divine intervention.

A novena may be made at any time. The devotion of the [Nine First Fridays](#) in honour of the [Sacred Heart](#) is a novena. Some parishes conduct a perpetual novena where the prayers particular to a specific novena are recited weekly.

Other novenas are traditionally held in preparation for a particular feast day.

God bless us all, and may we rejoice as we await the coming of the Spirit in this season – and always.

- Fr Robert

For information

Copies of a simple form of prayer, which can be used daily for a novena for individuals, or with others, starting at the Ascension and leading up to Pentecost, put together by Fr Robert, is available in the narthex.

Prayers of the faithful

10th May 2026 –6th Sunday of Easter

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all those whom Jesus calls friends, gathered in worship and witness.

We pray for those in our world who live with fear, violence, oppression and disease. We pray for all those who strive to bring them comfort, peace, justice and health.

We pray for all those who make up this community of faith and witness, and all who serve it. May we grow ever more in our appreciation of our Christian calling.

We pray for all those known to us who have need of our prayers in our families, friends and community.

We pray for all those who have died: that they may share in the Resurrection of Christ.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 10th May –6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 Ps 65 1Peter 3:15-18 Jn 14:15-21

It is a happy irony that Philip is in Samaria in our first reading due to the persecution initiated by Saul. The commission of Stephen and Philip and the other Hellenists to take on the role of distributing food led to their taking on preaching and evangelisation, and this resulted in the stoning of Stephen and the persecution of the Hellenists in Jerusalem. As a consequence, they leave and carry their message elsewhere, so the attempt to stifle the Good News leads to its growth. Philip's preaching is accompanied by signs and cures – signs which recall Jesus' own ministry. In the Book of Acts Luke has no consistent ordering of the gifts of baptism and the Holy Spirit. Here baptism is given and then the apostles come from Jerusalem to see the results of Philip's ministry and then lay hands on the Samaritans that they might receive the Spirit. The real significance is that the apostles' role is acknowledged and the mission of Philip (and therefore of the other Hellenists) is confirmed. Luke portrays a community that grows and brings in outsiders (Samaritans were regarded with great distaste by the Jews).

But it is one community that is united by the baptism in the name of Jesus, that gives the Holy Spirit to believers, and which is united to the apostles. The gospel of Luke is an account of the work of Jesus – his mission and its accomplishment; the Book of Acts by Luke is the sequel which gives an account of the mission of the Spirit in the Church and the accomplishment of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. The significance of the Holy Spirit in today's passage reminds us that we are approaching the Feast of Pentecost, as does the Gospel passage from John where Jesus promises that although he is to leave them, the Father: "will give you another Advocate to be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth." That promise of Jesus at the Last Supper is an abiding foundation of the life of the Christian Church – "I will not leave you orphans". The presence of the Spirit in the life of the church is the guarantee that the church is not simply some great global institution abiding in history, but truly the body of Christ – above all when gathered to celebrate the Eucharist.

For reflection:

In what ways and at what times do you truly feel yourself to be a member of the body of Christ?

As we approach Pentecost in what ways do you expect to experience or observe the working of the Holy Spirit in the community of faith?

Church Services this week:

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

Thursday Feast of the Ascension – Mass 10.00am and 6.30pm

Private prayer with Exposition Tuesday 10.00- 11.00am

Leweston School

A Catholic boarding and day school since 1891 — has launched the St Antony Community Award, offering a £1000 per term reduction on Full Boarding fees for Catholic families joining the school from September 2026.

Full Boarding fees for 2026/27 are £11,793 per term for Years 7 and 8, and £12,880 per term for Years 9 to 13— with the award reducing those fees by £1,000 per term. A small number of awards are available each year.

For more information,

visit [//leweston.co.uk/st-antony-community-award](http://leweston.co.uk/st-antony-community-award) or contact the admissions team on 01963 211015 or admissions@leweston.dorset.sch.uk.

Dates for your Diary

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Sat 9th May- Family Rosary, 4.30pm.
To honour the month of Our Lady.
All families welcome.

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'Scripture Matters'

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 15th May @ 10.45am-12.15pm.** Once a month, our small group gathers in the 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.



Pentecost Sunday

Please join the celebration **after Mass on 24th May.** We would greatly appreciate any food donations of savoury or sweet. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex, if you could let the organisers know what you are bringing. We look forward to seeing everyone!

From the Plymouth Office:

Caritas May Newsletter:

Please click the link to read the latest news of love in action around our diocese : <https://tinyurl.com/y9bjk8a8>

The Diocesan Newsletter:

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-A26C2BBAA727D7802540EF23F30FEDED>

Heatree Residential 15th - 17th May, 'Go make disciples of all nations' Matt 28:19

Heatree is an outdoor activity centre based on Dartmoor. The weekend is open to those aged 9 - 12 (school years 5 - 7). Whilst enjoying high ropes and raft building (amongst other activities) young people will have the chance to explore the Sunday readings through discussion, crafts and games. Cost £90.

To book follow the link: [Heatree 2026 15th-17th May – Fill in form](#)

Further information email: Saskia or Ruby: youth@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 REPs: Jamie Mead and 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.