



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
22nd March 2026**



**Daily Mass Year 2 – Daily Prayer 1
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

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	21st	6.00pm	Timothee Dhessa Malabo R.I.P
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	23rd	10.00am	“John's” intentions
Tuesday	24th	10.00am	Bill Ives R.I.P
Wednesday	25th	10.00-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Thursday	26th	10.00-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition, Confessions during Exposition
Friday	27th	10.00am	Anne Redish R.I.P (Foundation Mass)
		6.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	28th	6.00pm	Fr. Michael Downey R.I.P (Foundation Mass)

****Please note Mass on Tuesday instead of Wednesday****



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

Today we pray especially for ReBorne Community Church

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

“Gospels of John in Lent”

This year during Lent we have the three great gospels of John which are sometimes called the great catechetical gospels as they are so profound and encourage pondering from their hearers. In this parish we tend to read them in full, using several voices, which emphasises the drama of them, even at the expense of taking a good time and requiring several readers to prepare – but I have no doubt about the value of so doing.

The three gospels are all very different in content, but very similar in purpose – they present the nature of an encounter with Jesus. In all the four gospels we have many people encountering Jesus, and often that is through a miracle – but these gospels of John have a significant difference.

The Samaritan woman whom Jesus meets at the well is an outsider, and for Jews a sinner, and yet Jesus seeks her out and despite convention engages with her to such an extent that she leaves her water pot behind and rushes off to tell others about him.

The man born blind is not a simply healing miracle – after all the bulk of the gospel is not about what Jesus has done but about how the man deals with the challenges from everyone around him – and those challenges in the end lead him to recognise who Jesus is and come to faith.

In the gospel of the raising of Lazarus, the dead man – obviously – has no part to play, but the encounter between his sisters and Jesus brings them both to a much deeper faith.

The point of all three gospels is not the miracle or sign or event, but the encounter with Jesus. John very deliberately invites his readers to recognise that what really matters in faith, is the encounter with Jesus – nothing else is really important. If you read John’s gospel carefully with that in mind you will uncover innumerable meetings of people with Jesus and they are all about the opportunity to come to faith – some people do so – like the key people in these three gospels, but often people simply walk away or put themselves on the side of those hostile

to Jesus. John invites us, his readers to encounter Jesus and choose to be changed or to walk away. That is the great decision!

These three gospels are regarded so highly by the Church that the parish may use them every year and is encouraged to do so any year when they receive people into full communion.

God bless us all, as we journey together through Lent to encounter the Jesus as the Risen Lord who comes to us at Easter. - Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday of Lent

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all God's people who acknowledge the new Covenant proclaimed in Jesus.

We pray for those in our world who want to see Jesus, that we may proclaim him to others and that our lives may reveal him.

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

We pray for ourselves that as we journey towards Easter, we may keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Beloved Son, calling us to himself.

We pray for those who have died: that they may be raised to eternal life.

Please pray for:

Those preparing to receive the sacraments at Easter.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection
Sunday 22nd March – 5th Sunday of Lent

Ezk 37: 12-14, Ps 130, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45.

The link between the first reading from the Old Testament and the gospel today is empathic. We are often given readings from the prophets that echo the action of Jesus in the gospel – but today's is striking. Through Ezekiel the Lord promises resurrection for his people, in the gospels we see it enacted at the command of God through Jesus' prayer. Yet for catechetical reasons the focus on the gospel is in fact on Martha and Mary – especially Martha (the picture of whom can often be stuck as the image of her in Luke's gospel.) If we remember that for John the great acts of Jesus are never called miracles, but only signs, and if we contemplate the gospels of the last two weeks, we can see that what John is asking of us here is not to be amazed by Jesus' act, but to recognise how people come to faith. In different gospels there are different professions of faith by disciples and gentiles and others, but Martha's is well worth noting. Her profession comes before the action – and her initial response to Jesus "If you had been here . . ." suggests one who didn't fully realise who the Lord is, and yet once the Lord has spoken his words of assurance to her she is able to make one of the most total professions of faith in Jesus in the all the gospels. Martha and Mary discover that to encounter the Lord is to encounter the one who has the power to "open your graves my people." The one who having risen enables all who believe to rise from the dead like Lazarus, that is the one the church invites the catechumens to meet at this Easter.

For reflection:

Do you find the idea of the resurrection of the dead in any way comprehensible?

In what ways do you think you are like Martha in this gospel?

Church Services this week

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

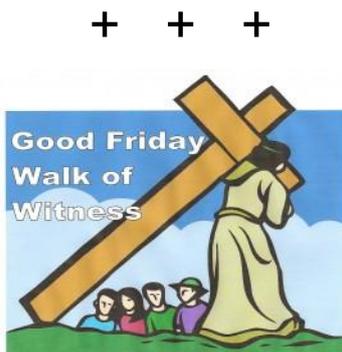
Private prayer and exposition – Wednesday and Thursday 10.00 - 11.00am

**Confessions – Saturday 5.00 – 5.45pm, Thursday 26th 10.00 – 11.00am during
exposition and on request**

Feast of the Annunciation – 25th March

This feast is one of the four when the Chapter of canons of the Diocese gather at the Cathedral with the Bishop to pray especially for the whole diocese and to meet together, as they have a special role in guiding the whole diocese in key matters.

Do pray for the Diocese, for our Bishop and for the chapter of canons.



Come and join the crowd and be part of *Sherborne Churches Together Walk of Witness on Good Friday.*

We will be starting at the top of Cheap Street at 10.30am and working our way to the bottom of town acting out the story.

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LENTEN ALMS

Our Lenten Alms collections this year will be to support 'Access to Clean Water' project in Cameroon and for Lepra.

'Access to Clean Water'

For more information, please see the posters in the narthex, or contact Gay on: gaybarry39@hotmail.com.

LEPRA

Please help by supporting this vital work. More information can be found in the leaflet in the narthex, or on their website at: www.lepra.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Lenten Lunches every Wednesday during Lent

11:30am - 1:00pm.

A donation of £4 requested please. This year, your donations will be shared equally between CAFOD and The Rendezvous (a Sherborne based charity providing well being and learning support for young people aged 14-25).

Stations of the Cross

Will take place on Fridays during Lent at 6pm.

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Fr. Robert's Lent talk after Mass in the hall : Friday 27th March (on The Passion)

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!



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!*

From the Plymouth Office:

Please click on the link to the Diocesan newsletter for March :

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-EE999F4145FB3F0F2540EF23F30FEDED>

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.