



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
5th April 2026**



**Daily Mass Year 2 – SEASON OF EASTER
EASTER SUNDAY**

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 <i>Holy Saturday</i>	4th	9.00pm	<i>Easter Vigil</i>
Sunday <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5th	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	6th	10.00am	Brian McGee RIP
Tuesday	7th	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	8th	10.00am	Stephen Farebrother (Intentions)
Thursday	9th	6.30pm	Easter Memorial Mass
Friday	10th	10.00am	Lourdes & Becky Paul (Intentions)
Saturday	11th	6.00pm	Gay Barry (Intentions)

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



Today we pray for St. Paul's Church

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 Vigil”

When we hear reports of people “keeping vigil” at the bedside of loved ones we know perfectly well what vigil means in that sense – it is about giving up time – lots of it – simply to be there, in their presence. It is not about “doing” anything, not about achieving anything; it is simply waiting attentively. The Easter Vigil - “O truly blessed night” - is the most lavish Liturgical celebration of the year – “the greatest and most noble of all solemnities” – and necessitates careful preparation and solemn celebration. A very significant part of the celebration is the Liturgy of the Word where “Holy Church meditates on the wonders the Lord God has done for his people, from the beginning.” For those being baptised there is rarely any danger of the Liturgy not having a powerful effect, but for all Christians, the wonders proclaimed in scripture and the strong symbolic actions with light, water, oil, bread and wine can make this truly a “truly blessed night when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human.” When people are suitably prepared, the long unfolding of God’s wonders in the readings from the Old Testament truly recount the story of faith, and any reduction of the number of readings will be a deprivation: “all of which should be read whenever this can be done, so that the character of the Vigil, which demands an extended time, may be preserved.” This is rich fare which cannot be rushed – this is a Vigil which requires attentive waiting and faithful watching.

One of the things I love about the vigil is the way in which it is “counter cultural”. We never go to church at night when it is dark and cold, especially to stand around outside! And yet that is what we are asked to do – the insistence that nothing begin before it is fully night is very strong. The attention given to so much detail and so much ritual is to ensure that we are enabled to get some grasp of the profundity of that which we are engaged in. This is no “quick fix” this is an attempt to

express the inexpressible and ponder that which is beyond us, and yet, to which we are offered an insight – if we will take it!

(All quotations from the Roman Missal – the Easter Vigil)

God bless us all, as we have journeyed together with Christ through his Passion so that we may encounter Jesus as the Risen Lord who has come to us at Easter.

- Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all the baptised who have become daughters and sons of God by water and the Holy Spirit, especially those to be received into the Church and those to be baptised this Easter.

When Jesus rose from the dead he proclaimed peace and light, we pray for those who live in darkness and fear in our world, that the Lord may bring them salvation.

We pray for our families, our friends and those we love and for those we know in need, that the Lord may bless them this Easter.

We pray for ourselves that we may live out our baptismal faith, by being light to the world.

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

Please pray for:

Thelma Horsley from this parish who has recently died and for her family.

Those preparing to receive the sacraments at Easter.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 5th April – Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34, 37-43 Ps 117 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

One of the great themes of John's gospel is the journey of faith that people are asked to make – the great 'catechetical' gospels we have listened to this Lent, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and so forth. Some of those who encounter Jesus in John's gospel make the journey to faith stage by stage and some fail to do so. It is therefore fitting in John's gospel that the final revelation is also a journey of faith – a literal one in this case. John notes that Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb when it was "still dark" – light and dark for John are always symbolic – Mary is literally "in the dark" about what has happened. She goes to Peter and John to give her message of loss and then they make a journey – to the empty tomb. The journey is carefully described and then they arrive at the empty tomb. We are then told that the beloved disciple sees what Mary had seen and what Peter had seen, but it is recorded: "he saw, and he believed". The beloved disciple has made the journey to belief, even though he has not yet seen the Risen Lord. If, as is often argued, the beloved disciple is some sort of ideal follower, then faith in the Resurrection is possible for those who have not seen the Risen Lord. That is something that John underlines in the remainder of his gospel, in the words of Jesus to Thomas: "You believe because you have seen me, Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe" and in the insistence of the evangelist that he has written this gospel: "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing this you may have life through his name." (20:31).

Those who gather this Easter morning are invited to continue their own journey of faith, to move from the dark of unknowing (like Mary of Magdala) into the light of faith like the beloved disciple.

For reflection:

Do you feel your faith journey has made any progress this Lent? What has helped and what did not?

Do you see yourself as like the beloved disciple – seeing and believing -or like Mary Magdalene –waiting to see the light?

Church Services this week

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

Annual Easter Memorial Mass, Thursday 6.30pm

Private prayer with Exposition Tuesday 10.00- 11.00am

(Easter Memorial Mass - when we remember those who have died over the last year in the light and hope of the Resurrection).

Thank you

To all those parishioners and others who have contributed to preparing the parish and its people for the great celebration of Holy Week.

Dates for your Diary

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.*

**** UPDATE ON CHURCH GARDEN ****

A small part of the church garden near the rear entrance has been cleared which was overgrown with brambles etc. This revealed large amounts of sedge grass which was thought could damage the fabric of the church building.

However, a survey has now been completed which shows that there is no danger to 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 10.00 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

***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.