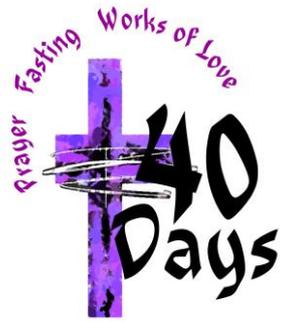




**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
15th March 2026**



**Daily Mass Year 2 – Daily Prayer
LAETARE SUNDAY
(Mothering Sunday)
FOURTH 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	14th	4.30pm 6.00pm	Family Stations of the Cross Malcolm Heygate-Brown R.I.P
Sunday	15th	10.30am	The people of the Parish
Monday	16th	10.00am	Deceased members of the O'Flaherty family
Tuesday	17th	10.00-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	18th	10.00am	Ethel O' Sullivan RIP (Foundation Mass)
Thursday	19th	10.00-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Friday	20th	10.00am 6.00pm	Vera Power R.I.P. Stations of the Cross
Saturday	21st	6.00pm	Timothee Dhessa Malabo R.I.P



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

This week we pray for Cheap Street 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

“Mothering Sunday”

You might remember a few weeks ago (I think it was the baptism of the Lord) I included a short piece from Pope Francis, asking us to think of our own baptism and finding out the date so we could celebrate it. Well, this week we are invited to find out the place of our baptism and (perhaps) visit it. For this Sunday is Mothering Sunday, and the real origin of this celebration was people visiting the church where they were baptised!

There is a long tradition of the church being referred to using female terms. We do talk of “Holy Mother Church” and use the language of mother for many aspects of the Church’s life – those features which are about nurturing and cherishing and guiding – the way in which a human mother might nurture and cherish and guide her child. So, we say the Church nourishes us through the sacraments, nurtures us by the scriptures and guides us by her teaching – like a mother would.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is also referred to as the Mother and model of the church in the documents and prayers of the church. It’s as if there is a real desire to ensure that the feminine dimension of humankind is represented as fully as possible in the spiritual life. The reality, of course, is that all of us have been born from mothers, and for most people the significance of that primary relationship abides all through life, and we seek to recognise it in all aspects of our humanity. When I think of the countless statues, pictures, devotions, shrines and miracles associated with Mary the Mother of Jesus it does seem to confirm to me the formal teaching of the Church that the whole body of the people of God “cannot err in matters of faith” in regard to veneration of the Mother of God.

Whether you can visit the church where you were baptised or not, whether your personal experience of your mother or of being a mother was totally positive or not; as part of humanity, as part of the Church, today you are invited to offer a prayer in gratitude or in supplication for your mother, for all mothers, for the Mother of Jesus and for the Church as our mother.

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

Prayers of the faithful

15th March 2026 – 4th Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday.

We pray for the church: we pray for all God's people who gather to celebrate their reconciliation with the Father achieved through Christ.

We pray for those in our world whose lives are threatened by war and violence. We remember those who are affected by the fighting in the Middle East. May the Lord be with them and all who seek to alleviate their suffering.

We pray for mothers - those in this parish and mothers throughout the world, especially those weighed down by difficulties and worries.

We pray for ourselves that we may continue our journey through Lent with our eyes opened to follow Christ who brings us salvation.

We pray for those who have died: that they may live with God for ever, especially those from our family and from this parish.

**Please pray for:
Those preparing to receive the sacraments at Easter.**

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 15th March – 4th Sunday of Lent

1Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Ps 22 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

The imagery of light and being able to see thread through all of today's readings. But being able to see physically is not primarily the thrust of these passages. The emphasis that is made is the ability to see in the light of God. The physical healing of the man born blind is recounted quite simply and briefly, but his coming to see who Jesus is – that is the heart of the gospel. The man has to face the challenge of the crowd and of the authorities – and he does so unsupported – even his parents stand back.

What is striking is the way in which this opposition leads the man to be able to really “see” who Jesus is. He begins with simply telling the crowd that it was “the man called Jesus”. When the authorities interrogate him, he tells them that Jesus is a prophet. When they challenge him the second time, he announces himself as a disciple, and then when driven away he meets Jesus again and makes a declaration of faith: ‘Lord I believe’ and worships him. John uses this encounter to illustrate how people can come to know Jesus and acknowledge him – it involves a gradual process and leads to opposition, but in the end all this can bring the disciple to understanding.

Such is the light that Paul talks of to the Ephesians. It is the light of faith that enables one to see – and the passage from the first book of Samuel reminds us that seeing in God's way can be very different from seeing as the world sees.

Over this period of Lent Catechumens have been supported by the community precisely so that they too can see the way that God sees, and recognise who Jesus is and having recognised that, can follow him as disciples, and, with the man born blind, proclaim in that community: “Lord I believe”.

For reflection:

Do you find the imagery of light one that speaks to you of life with God?

In what ways do you think you are like the man born blind? In what ways is your response to Jesus as strong as his?

Church Services this week:

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

Private prayer and exposition – Tuesday & Thursday 10.00 - 11.00am

Confessions – Saturday 5.00 – 5.45pm and on request

An invitation to meet Bishop Nicholas Hudson

Please come and join parishioners from Holy Trinity and our neighbouring parishes to extend a warm welcome to Bishop Nicholas!

Station Masses will be held **on Friday 27th March, 6pm at Holy Trinity Church, Dorchester** (followed by refreshments in Holy Trinity Parish Centre) and on **Saturday 28th March, 11.00am at St. Mary’s Church, Poole.**

LENTEN ALMS

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

A little message from the 'Holy Union Sisters'

Many thanks to our Parish Pastoral Council for letting us appeal to you for support in providing clean water in Baba [a town of 10,000 people] in North-West Cameroon, an area which, due to ongoing civil conflict, and climate-change, is under great stress. Many years ago in Baba our Sisters established a Health Centre – 'St Monica's'. Three Wells used to supply water for everyone in the Baba area; now only one Well functions. We hope to build a new Well – which would supply water for all local people in Baba, and service our Health Centre.... It would be the means of providing better health through improved sanitation and hygiene, and prevent water-borne diseases.

Thank you most sincerely for your interest and all your prayer and support for our people in Baba.

(See the posters in the narthex, or contact Gay gaybarry39@hotmail.com for more information).

LEPRA

Leprosy is not a disease of the past. It still exists but it is curable. Leprosy is caused by a type of bacteria called Mycobacterium leprae and can affect the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes.

According to the WHO, it is a 'neglected tropical disease' (NTD) which still occurs in more than 120 countries, with more than 200 000 new cases reported every year.

Please help by supporting this vital work. More information can be found 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.

+++

Family Stations of the Cross, with our Holy Communion children, will take place on Saturday 14th March at 4.30pm. All families welcome!

Fr. Robert's Lent talks after Mass in the hall :

**Friday 20th March (on the Triduum) and
Friday 27th March (on The Passion)**

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.