



Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
24th May 2026



Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 4
PENTECOST 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	23 rd	6.00pm	The Sisters' Intentions
Sunday	24 th	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	25 th	10.00am	David Porter R.I.P. (Anniv.)
Tuesday	26 th	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	27 th	10.00am	Bridget Travers' Intention
Thursday	28 th	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Friday	29 th	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Angela Fallowfield R.I.P.
Saturday	30 th	6.00pm	Deceased members of the Gomez family



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

Today we pray for St. James the Great, Longburton.

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

"Pentecost"

A reflection

The Feast of Pentecost is one of the three great Christian Feasts with Easter and Christmas. The word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word *pentekoste*, meaning "fiftieth". The festival originated from a long-standing Jewish holiday called *Shavuot* (or the Feast of Weeks). Originally, this was an agricultural harvest festival celebrated fifty days after Passover. In later Jewish tradition, it came to commemorate the day God gave the Torah (the Law) to Moses on Mount Sinai. So, when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on Pentecost, it was a day already rich in meaning.

According to the Book of Acts, Jesus' followers were in Jerusalem when they heard a sound like a rushing wind and saw what appeared to be "tongues of fire" resting above each of them. This event filled the disciples with the Holy Spirit, granting them the ability to speak different languages so they could preach to the diverse crowds then gathered in Jerusalem. Because this event gave believers the courage and divine backing to go forth and make disciples, Christians recognise Pentecost as the formal beginning or "birthday" of the Christian Church.

As with all the feasts and celebrations of the Church, it is important to recognise that ultimately this is the working of God. The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church as described throughout the Book of Acts is the initiative and action of God in fulfilment of the promise made by Jesus to his disciples in detail in John's gospel. Nowadays we recognise that the gift of the same Spirit is poured out on members of the Church above all in baptism and confirmation. That is why you may notice the many baptisms and the celebration of confirmation in the parish at this time of the year.

Of course it is important for us all not just to recognise the link of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit with this time of the year, but above all to seek the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit for our lives as disciples, by prayer and intercession, so that the gift we have received may be put into real and effective practice.

God bless us all, and may we rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church in this season – and always.
- Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

24th May 2026 –Pentecost Sunday

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all God's people, guided by the Holy Spirit and making Christ present in our world.

We pray for those in our world who live with fear, hunger, violence and uncertainty. May the Holy Spirit stir the hearts of all people to bring them peace, justice and consolation, and may we hold them in prayer.

We pray for this parish that the Holy Spirit may stir us to act justly and bear witness in faith to our families, our friends, our neighbours and all those known to us.

We pray for ourselves that we may know the power of God's Holy Spirit in our lives and may be prompt to respond to the call we hear.

We pray for those who have died especially those from this parish who died recently; that they may see the face of God.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11 Ps 103 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23

At the beginning of his gospel and at the beginning of the Book of Acts Luke constantly dips into “Old Testament” language and concepts to anchor the Christian dispensation in the history of God’s dealing with Israel. Therefore, in order to have a good grasp of the significance of the Feast of Pentecost and what Luke is trying to portray, any reader needs to reflect on the Old Testament themes that are touched on. A good way of doing this is to take the four readings offered for the Vigil Mass and ponder them to discern the insights Luke offers. Luke is aware that the only vocabulary and concepts he has to describe the working of God are those that come from the tradition of Israel, and so he casts the story of the new Pentecost in the language of the Hebrew Scriptures. The Tower of Babel narrative from Genesis reveals that human pride and sin is thwarted by the division of language – division is always a sign of the absence of God - but at Pentecost that is overcome; in the theophany on Mount Sinai God’s presence is portrayed in terrifying terms (Cf Heb 12 18-19) but at Pentecost the echoes in the account of Luke are beneficent; the Dry Bones of Ezekiel show that that which is dead can be brought to life by the Spirit (breath) of God; while the outpouring of the Spirit from the prophet Joel offers universal access to God’s gifts as the great variety of hearers on the day of Pentecost discovered.

All of these insights offer an opportunity to explore the significance of the gift of the Spirit given to the Apostles and available to believers at Pentecost and today. The outpouring of the Spirit on the Apostles is not a weird and wonderful “miracle”, but a fulfilment of what God had intended and promised in the past and what the Paschal Mystery has now made possible.

We may be celebrating Pentecost – 50 days after Easter, but today’s gospel from John is set on Easter Sunday. This is a useful reminder that the Christian Mystery is not a series of chronological distinct steps but a seamless whole where the Resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Spirit are all part of the same action of God, and that action is always *now*.

For reflection:

In what ways do you truly feel the readings from the Old Testament enable you to appreciate the depth of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church?

In what ways do you experience the working of the Holy Spirit in your life and in that of the community of faith?

Church Services this week:

Mass in the parish church – Monday and Wednesday at 10.00am

Friday - Requiem Mass 11.00 am for Angela Fallowfield.

Private prayer with Exposition Tuesday and Thursday 10.00-11.00am

Please pray for:

Billy Randall to be baptised this Sunday and for his parents and godparents.

Please note:

Now we have celebrated Pentecost, the Paschal Candle moves from beside the Ambo to besides the Font.

We will change the Mystery of faith acclamation to “We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again”.

You are **important, and your parish **NEEDS** you**

When we come to Mass, we are made welcome. A steward will greet us, ensure that we have a Mass Sheet and a newsletter, and sometimes a music sheet. They will help us find a seat, answer our queries (where's the loo? – what time is mass tomorrow? etc).

It's not hard, but it is **important** (like you).

“Yes, but I'm not very good at that sort of thing, and I don't know many of the people, (and actually I'm unsure if I'd be any good)”

Probably all our Stewards (Welcomers, Ushers, whatever we're called) were a bit anxious to start with – I know I was when I started doing it 34 years ago; but one of the wonderful things about it was it helped me to get to know other people in the parish, which made me feel more at home, more as if I belonged here.

If you would like to try it, talk to one of the stewards - perhaps you could join them another time to find out what it's like?

Or you could contact Deacon Jonathan for a chat after Mass, who could arrange for someone to guide you.

Dates for your Diary



Pentecost Sunday 'Bring and Share' Sunday 24th May, after 10:30 am Mass

Please join us to celebrate!

We kindly invite you to bring savoury or sweet food donations to share. Hopefully these might represent or celebrate your own cultural background e.g. Welsh cakes from our Welsh parishioners, but they do not have to. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex to let us know what you're bringing and where it's from. If you have already signed up, feel free to stick with your original offering!

Mass with Anointing of the Sick Sunday 31st May at 3pm

Please join us at this beautiful Mass. Any help on the day would be much appreciated – sign-up sheets are now up in the narthex. Thank you.



The Church Cleaning Group will be meeting for the next jolly session of dusting and polishing on *Tuesday 2 June at 2pm.*
All most welcome!

*The St Anne Garden
Situating to the left of the rear church entrance.
Do come and view!*

Briars and brambles have been removed, soil improved and rotavated. The pathway to the statue is now open with paving reinstated. Donations towards this stage can be made using the GARDEN heading with Cashless Giving until the end of June. Grateful thanks to all who have contributed and encouraged. *Anne Harriss, Mary Wemyss (0797 6182531).*

From the Plymouth Office:

School Transport grants for the academic year 2026-27

The Diocese of Plymouth is now taking applications from parents/guardians wishing to apply for grants for transport to a Catholic or Catholic/CofE joint school situated in the Diocese of Plymouth.

Applications for the academic year 2026-27 must be submitted in writing and be signed by the Parish Priest. Families will be notified at the start of the Autumn term if their application has been successful. Application forms are available from the parish office. (Please note – there are limited funds and not all applications may be successful).

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.