



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
2nd August 2026
Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 2**



E-mail: sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk website: www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org

The Parish Office is generally open on Wednesday & Friday mornings

Saturday	1st Aug	6.00pm	Father Robert's Ordination day
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Brenda Recce R.I.P
Monday	3rd	10.00am	Polly Walker (Intention)
Tuesday	4th	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	5th	10.00am	Mary Bills R.I.P
Thursday <i>Feast of The Transfiguration</i>	6th	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Friday	7th	10.00am	John Boodle R.I.P
Saturday	8th	6.00pm	Eleanor Porter's intentions

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

Today we pray for our own parish.

We hope this brings our Christian family 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 Transfiguration”

This Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. Here is part of a reflection from Pope John Paul II to help us prepare.

Today, the liturgy invites us to focus our gaze on this mystery of light. On the transfigured face of Jesus, a ray of light which he held within shines forth. This same light was to shine on Christ's face on the day of the Resurrection. In this sense, the Transfiguration appears as a foretaste of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration invites us to open the eyes of our hearts to the mystery of God's light, present throughout salvation history. At the beginning of creation, the Almighty had already said: "Fiat lux - let there be light!" and the light was separated from the darkness. Like the other created things, light is a sign that reveals something of God: it is, as it were, a reflection of his glory which accompanies its manifestations. When God appears, "his brightness was like the light, rays flashed from his hand".

Light, it is said in the Psalms, is the mantle with which God covers himself. In the Book of Wisdom, the symbolism of light is used to describe the very essence of God: wisdom, an outpouring of his glory, is "a reflection of eternal light" superior to any created light.

In the New Testament, it is Christ who constitutes the full manifestation of God's light. His Resurrection defeated the power of the darkness of evil forever. With the Risen Christ, truth and love triumph over deceit and sin.

In him, God's light henceforth illumines definitively human life and the course of history: "I am the light of the world", he says in the Gospel, "he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life".

In our time too, we urgently need to emerge from the darkness of evil, to experience the joy of the children of light!

God bless us all and may we all rejoice to walk in the light of Jesus
– Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful
2nd August 2026 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary time

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all who put their trust in Jesus as the Word of God come into the world.

We pray for those in our world who hunger for food, for safety, for company and for security.

We pray for all those in the parish who are sick in body and mind, we pray for the housebound, all those who support them, and all who have need of our prayers.

We pray for ourselves that we may always make the Lord our security and the gospel our hope.

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

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection
Sunday 2nd August - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55 1-3; Psalm 144; Romans 8:35, 37-39; Matthew 14:13-21

The poetic language from Isaiah invites us to ponder it. The Lord offers something necessary – food and drink - and it is offered freely without charge; but more than that, what is being offered is “true” food and drink – not something that “fails to satisfy” – which is what wages buy. What satisfies and gives life, ultimately, is listening to the Lord, paying attention and coming to him. This reading is coupled today with Matthew’s account of the feeding of the five thousand. Even without reference to the explicit teaching which Jesus gives in John’s account of the feeding and his “bread of life” discourse, there are unmistakable eucharistic overtones in Matthews’s account. The fourfold action of taking, blessing, breaking and giving is a feature of the Last Supper. The fish, which were there when the crowd were told to sit, seem to lose significance as we are told that it is the loaves that are broken and given out. No doubt at the obvious level, this miracle is about feeding the hungry without payment, but the early church had quickly realised that like Isaiah there was more at issue than simply filling stomachs.

The short reading from St Paul to the Romans is a frequent text for funerals as it expresses the total confidence of the believer in Christ’s love – something that is stronger than even death itself. That for Paul and for all of us is the ultimate reference point for our faith.

For reflection:

Are there some parables that you feel challenged by? Are these three some of those?

Are you someone who brings out of the storeroom things both old and new?

Do you see past events – perhaps in your own life – in the light of your present faith and your future hope?

Church Services this week:

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

Private prayer with Exposition Tuesday and Thursday 10.00 - 11.00am

The Mystery of faith acclamation:

***“We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until
you come again”.***

Please help, our church needs more Stewards and Catechists!

Perhaps over the summer holidays you could consider volunteering to help with these important ministries.

Stewards, to welcome and assist parishioners at the weekend Masses, and/or to become a Catechist and be involved in the preparation for 1st Holy Communion and Children's Liturgy on a Sunday.

Thank you – the more volunteers we have on each rota eases the commitment for everyone!

(Please speak to Fr Robert, Deacon Jonathan, or contact the Parish Office if you can help).

Message from Andrew Houseley:

Our small parish group is looking for new members to rejuvenate the group which has been meeting for nearly 25 years. We meet one evening a month and we normally sing a hymn, read the Gospel for the next Sunday, pray quietly and then share what it has meant to us. We pray for the intentions of the group and finish with tea and biscuits and a chat. *If you are interested in learning more or in joining us for a meeting, please contact Andrew Houseley on andrewhouseley@btinternet.com.*



Dates for your Diary

THERE ARE NO UP AND COMING EVENTS UNTIL SEPTEMBER -
EVERYONE IS TAKING A WELL-EARNED SUMMER BREAK!

Wishing you all a happy and blessed summer.

From the Plymouth Office:

Here is the link to our diocesan newsletter for July/August

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-47E6F88D98A22DCD2540EF23F30FEDED>



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 Wednesday and Friday mornings.

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, Lulu Paul, Sr. Rose.

HALL BOOKINGS:

Please email or phone the Office.