



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
22nd June 2025
The Body & Blood of Christ
Daily Mass Year 1 – Daily Prayer 4**



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

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	6.00 pm	Mass for the parishioners from the Sisters
Sunday	22nd	10.30 am	First Communicants and their families
Monday	23rd	10.00 am	For the sick & housebound
Tuesday	24th	10-11.00 am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	25th	10.00 am	Bob Springer RIP
Thursday	26th	10-11.00 am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Friday	27th	6.30pm	For the Sisters of the parish
<i>Feast of the Sacred Heart</i>			
Saturday	28th	6.00 pm	David & Danny Pitcher



For the children receiving their first Holy Communion today, that we may be inspired by them and give them our support and encouragement.

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 that this will bring 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

“First Holy Communions”

I am always surprised – and delighted – by how the Sunday when we celebrate first Holy Communion in the parish has a real upbeat feel to it for everyone. It's not just the children; their families and the whole community also get excited – and everyone smiles and rejoices with them. There is such excitement and awe expressed by the children – I remember one girl in a former parish who asked to speak at the morning school assembly in her county primary school and told the assembly that next Sunday she would eat the body of Christ and drink his blood! I have no doubt that what she said caused great excitement among the pupils (and teachers and parents!). That would obviously not be the way I would have spoken had I been asked to speak at that school's assembly – but I was very impressed at what witness our nine-year old gave!

I am always impressed by how well our parish catechists supported by the parents of the children and their families do manage to communicate the essence of the Eucharist to our young parishioners, and I thank God for that, because it is an essential part of our community passing on the teaching and tradition of the Gospel to our world today – That is what the Church has always done- as we know personally - we have received the faith from our parents and our previous generation, and we pass it on to our children and the next generation – and so may it be always.

I am also very aware that at the end of this week we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – our patronal Feast and the Feast Day of the Sisters of Religious Instruction who founded this parish over 130 years ago. We will, of course have a parish celebration – Mass at 6.30pm on the Friday evening, followed by a celebration in the hall. I hope all will feel invited – it is a time when we as a parish celebrate the presence and witness of the sisters in our midst – and we know how blessed we have to have them here – May God bless them all and sustain them in their calling. I was struck to reflect that the combined ages of all our children celebrating their First Holy Communion this year is rather less than the age of any of the sisters who have been here for all of the time I have been here. It is a real sign of how the church constantly renews and sustains itself generation after generation.

May God bless you during this Holy season and sustain all of us – young and old - who make up the body of Christ gathered at the altar here week by week.

- Fr Robert

Please note

*Now that we have returned to Ordinary time, we revert to the Mystery of Faith
Acclamation:*

“When we eat this bread and drink this cup . . .”

Prayers of the faithful

The Body and Blood of Christ

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all those who are called to the supper of the lamb, and who make up the Body of Christ – especially our young parishioners making their First Holy Communion this weekend.

We pray for those in our world who hunger for food, and for security, for love and for consolation – may the Lord feed them with himself

We pray for our families, for those dear to us and for those we know in need.

We pray for ourselves that we may live out our baptismal faith, by being faithful to prayer, to the fellowship, the teaching of the apostles and the breaking of bread

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

Please pray for

*Ann Clarke – widow of Fr Peter Clarke – both well-known and much
loved in this parish - who is now very ill.*

May the Lord support her and the family at this time.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 22nd June The Body and Blood of Christ

Gen 14:18-20; Ps 109; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Lk 9-11, 17

The brief reading from the book of Genesis regarding Melchizedek will intrigue many, and it is not an easy reading to address, especially given its brevity. The figure of Melchizedek was picked up by many of the ancient writers around the time of the canonical scriptures – Philo, Josephus, 2nd Enoch and Qumran. There is a reference in the First Eucharistic prayer, where he is mentioned as prefiguring the Eucharistic Offering of Christ. It is undoubtedly easier in looking at these readings today to omit any reference to this incident, because it is so tentative (only the Letter to the Hebrews makes anything of Melchizedek in the canonical scriptures).

Nonetheless this is a figure who blesses Abraham “our father in faith” (also EP1) and to whom Abraham gives a tithe of all he has. The blessing is two-fold: blessing the recipient of the bread and wine, and blessing God for what God has done for him (defeat of his enemies). Similarly in the Eucharist, those who present the bread and wine (the People of God) are blessed and God is blessed for what he has done for them (salvation).

The reading from Paul reminds us of the eschatological dimension of the Eucharist – it is always looking forward: “until the Lord comes” – and the Eucharist is the nourishment for that time of waiting – until Christ comes and sacraments will cease. The abundance of the bread in the desert in the gospel indicates that the Eucharist is not merely basic rations – it is a real sign of the generosity and prodigality of God.

For reflection:

People can sometimes think of the Eucharist – “going to Communion” - as a reward for being good and keeping the commandments. But we can also think of the Eucharist as the daily bread we need to sustain us.

There are other ways of thinking of the Eucharist too. How do you understand what you receive and why?

How do you understand the idea of the generosity of God in the Eucharist - the giving of himself to us to express his intimacy and love?

Church Services this week

Mass in the parish church – Monday and

Wednesday - 10.00am, Friday – Parish Feast of the Sacred Heart

6.30pm followed by celebration in the hall.

Confessions – Saturday 5.00 – 5.45 pm and on request

***Please note – the new parish website is now online – feel free to
feedback comments***

***Diocesan Jubilee passports “Pilgrims of hope” are available for you to
collect in the sacristy.***

***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.***

Dates for your Diary



Feast of the Sacred Heart Celebration Friday 27th June

Please join us for this lovely celebration with Mass at 6.30pm, followed by refreshments in the hall, giving thanks for the Sisters in the parish.

Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex if you wish to attend so we have an idea of numbers, and/or you feel you can provide any refreshments. Thank you!

Jubilee Mass Invitation

There will be a special Jubilee Mass at **Holy Trinity, Dorchester**, on *Saturday, 5th July at 10:30 am*.

This Mass is arranged for all priests, deacons, and pilgrims from across Dorset Deanery, as we come together to celebrate the feast of the **Chideock Martyrs**, which falls on the 4th of July.

Canon Paul Cummins will be officiating the Mass on the day.

Wednesday 9th July - Join CAFOD and other organisations in a mass lobby of parliament calling for action on the global debt crisis and on climate change.

This will be a unique and inspirational opportunity to join the church's Jubilee Global Debt Campaign and make our call for the cancellation of the debts of countries hit hardest by the climate crisis heard.

To find out more about the issues, see the poster in the hall or use this link <https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/join-us-for-the-mass-lobby-of-parliament>

From the Plymouth Office:

Vacancy

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (PLYMOUTH) - ASSISTANT GRANTS OFFICER

We are looking to recruit an Assistant Grants Officer to work alongside the Administrator and support the work already taking place, facilitating the provision of goods agreed with the board, through the Essential Grants programme.

This role is 14 hours a week working from home although based in the office at St. Boniface House.

Please see poster in the narthex for further details.

DID YOU MANAGE A SPRING CLEAN ?

We are already well into the longer evenings and the warmth that summer brings but did you manage to dust off the cobwebs of the winter months and have a good old fashioned spring clean? Did you know that you can donate your unwanted items through the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)'s Orange Box recycling scheme and turn clutter into cash for a very good cause? If you have some items to donate, please pop them in the Orange Box in the narthex.

Items that can be popped into the box: Stamp collections, Coins and banknotes, Precious metals including broken jewellery, Metals including ornaments, metal toys, keys and locks, metal cutlery – any age and any condition, Costume jewellery, Medals, Small antiques and collectibles, Watches – digital, quartz or manual wind – working or not.

- Any Catholic religious memorabilia such as rosaries, crucifixes, medals etc.

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 11am Thursday. There is someone 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: Kristine Mountain
Jennie Haynes

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Deacon Jonathan Simon,
Georgina Bruce, Tricia Chapman,
Tim Kelly, Tess O'Rourke and Lulu Paul.

HALL BOOKINGS: Please email or phone the Office