Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
29th November 2026
Daily Mass Year 1 Psalter 1
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

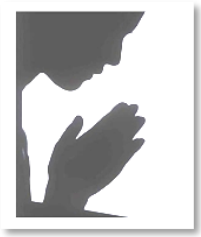


E-mail: sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk website: www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org

The Parish Office
is open on Wednesday & Friday mornings -
(emails and telephone calls are monitored all week)

Saturday 28th	**6.00pm**	**Gerry Wright R.I.P**
Sunday 29th	**10.30am**	**Margaret Leather R.I.P**
Monday 30th	**10.00am**	**Hilary Grant R.I.P**
Tuesday 1st Dec	**10-11.00am**	**Private prayer & Exposition**
Wednesday 2nd	**10.00am**	**Patrick, Kathleen & Kevin Watters**
Thursday 3rd	**10-11.00am**	**Private prayer & Exposition**
Friday 4th	**10.00am**	**Sr. Josephine's Intentions**
Saturday 5th	**6.00pm**	**The deceased family & friends of Tess O'Rourke**

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



Today we pray for Sherborne Abbey

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

"What are we waiting for?"

Whether it's world politics, climate change, inflation or whatever, we all ask each other: What will "it" be like? What will happen? When? How? It's that perennial game of "guess the future." And of course, most of the voices that try and predict emphasise the negative, telling us how much worse things will be – and almost everything else it seems. It's almost as if something is hard-wired into us to look for the downside and expect the worst.

And so perhaps I am suggesting that it would be good to approach the end of this year in a positive way, not to look for disaster, but for encouragement and promise of good things to come. And I suggest that this is not just a matter of "positive thinking" (or wishful thinking) as if we can change things simply by wanting them to be better. It is about trust and hope – and those are things that are an essential element of the Christian message.

That message is precisely what the Church wants to give us at this time of the year. We are invited to positively embrace the future and all it contains. Advent is a season of hope and promise. The word itself means "to come" it invites us to embrace the future as a time to trust and rejoice.

We can do that because of our faith that God is with us – the focus of Christmas is that the Lord has already come – that God has chosen to be with us, to share our life – with its joys and sorrows, its hopes and fears. The Incarnation is a message of God's commitment – that we are precious and will not be abandoned, that there is a future that is not empty and futile. If we can recognise that and live it – what an example that gives to our families, to our friends and community, to the world – a message that the future is not to be feared, that things are not simply getting worse all the time. We cannot control the future and determine it, but we are prepared to trust and let God do that.

As you gather with those whom you love, as you share joy and festivities at this time of year, as you enjoy the company of dear ones, as you rejoice in the welcome and smiles that are everywhere - recognise these as signs, as signs of goodness and kindness and love, and recognise them as signs of the goodness that is already present and of hope for what will be.

To some extent we have a choice – we can look for signs of chaos and disaster and dwell on them and make that our vision for the future; or we can recognise the goodness that is about us, that has fed us and nourished us throughout our lives, that reveals God's love for us, and the promise which that contains. If we do that, then we do not have to live in fear and despondency – the coming of the Christ child is a promise of what the future brings – and that will be good.

God bless us all on this Advent as we look forward to the coming of Christ among us - Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful
1st Sunday of Advent

We pray for the church: for all God's people who look forward in hope to Christ's coming in Glory: May he find us confident and ready to greet him.

We pray for all those who make decisions in our world that affect the lives of their fellow citizens; may they act with wisdom and integrity.

We pray for the sick, the sad, the frightened and the lost, that they may be lifted up by the Lord and by his people.

We pray for ourselves and for all whom we know and love: may we all show forth in our lives the faith we profess.

We pray for those who have died: may they go forth in faith to meet the Lord.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection
Sunday 29th November
1st Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8 Ps79 1Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37
There is always a future dimension to our faith – as we profess every Sunday in the Creed, but that dimension is particularly emphasised at the beginning of Advent. God's people at the time of the Exodus, at the time of the Exile, and when the early Church suffered persecution, have looked for the Lord to come and save them. That has been true many times in the history of the Church and of course, is very true of times in the lives of every individual Christian. So today in that wonderful passage from Isaiah we hear the plea: "O that you would rend the heavens open and come down!" Throughout Advent we will hear a great deal of such pleas – and also the promise that goes with them, that God has not forgotten his people, but will come to save and redeem them.
Coupled with the promise of salvation, comes the corresponding command to be prepared and be ready for when salvation comes: Stay awake for you never know when the time will come. Advent is the time for preparation for the Lord to come – it leads up to the Feast of the Incarnation – but it also invites us to prepare for the ultimate coming of the Lord – that is something that should always be a part of our spirituality because our human existence is contingent. So, we are called to stay awake and that is an essential element of Advent too – particularly enjoined in the first weeks. But as Paul reminds the Corinthians the appropriate response to the challenge is not to be afraid but to recognise the faithfulness of God: "who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

For reflection:
What do you think are the main things you look forward to being saved from on "the day of the Lord?
Do you think that the image of a God coming down from heaven still resonates with people today?

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

Advent talk after Mass, Friday in Church hall.

Please pray for:
Jack Harrison to be baptised and fully initiated on Sunday at the 10.30am Mass.

Ann Watts from this parish. Her funeral will be held here on Wednesday 9th December at 11.00am.

Please continue to pray for the students and staff of St Antony's Lewston at this difficult time.

Parish Dates for your Diary



Saturday 28th - Family Advent Day
Join us for a special Family Advent Day on Saturday 28th November, from 10.30am–12.30pm. Families and parish members of all ages are warmly invited to spend a morning preparing for Advent together. There will be a time of Children's Adoration and prayer, Advent crafts and festive refreshments as we make space to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All welcome! *Leaflets are available in the narthex to take home and pop on your fridge as a handy reminder!*

Tuesday 1st December - Church Cleaning Group at 11.15am. Please do join us if you are able. This earlier time will continue for the Winter months.

Wednesday 2nd December – Friends Together Lunch, from 11.30am *in the Church Hall. Any funds raised will continue to be split between CAFOD & Rendezvous. We look forward to seeing you there!*

Friday 4th & 11th December – Fr. Robert's Advent talks in the hall after 10.00am Mass.

Bags of Presents!

Are you giving any presents this year?

Every year, people are buying new bags to put presents in.
Others have bags left over at home.
If you want some bags, come and choose from the pre-used bags in the hall. If you can, leave a donation in the bowl, or use the

Cashless Giving Terminal – Christmas Food Bank

Or, if you have some bags in your cupboard that you don't expect to use, bring them along so that others can use them.

Bags will be available in the hall after the weekend Masses from Saturday 22nd November until the 4th Sunday in Advent
(or until there are none left)



Volunteers are needed for the Sherborne Christmas Tree Festival
7th - 12th December taking place in the Cheap Street Church
from 10am to 4pm.

One hour slots are available for stewards who meet and greet visitors, chat about the charities, hand out children's quizzes and keep a tally of all visitors.

Please contact Tricia Chapman on: pcchapman@hotmail.com, or 07760225880 before 2nd December to sign up. It really is beautiful and uplifting!

CAFOD World Gifts

You may like to consider buying meaningful Christmas gifts from CAFOD that change lives around the world. There is something for everyone and something to suit every budget, from Christmas calendars and cards through ethical stocking fillers and to funding a medical outreach team to support a whole community. Please look out for the catalogues in the narthex.

From the Plymouth Office:

Teenagers' (13 - 17 year olds) Residential, 22nd - 24th January 2027
This residential will be held at East Shallowford Farm, Dartmoor, for those aged 13 - 17 years old. Young people will explore the scripture Matt 7:7 whilst considering ways to communicate with God. There will be 4 themed divisions; producing short footage, dance, music and craft. Young people always talk about how they enjoy meeting fellow Catholics from across the Diocese. Donation £40 per place.

Booking essential: https://forms.office.com/e/zuRH2sK08U

For further information contact Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.



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.