



**Catholic Parish of  
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm  
Sherborne  
9<sup>th</sup> August 2026  
Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 3**



E-mail: [sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk) website: [www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org](http://www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org)

**The Parish Office is generally open on Wednesday & Friday mornings**

|                  |                        |                   |                                                   |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>6.00pm</b>     | <b>Eleanor Porter's intentions</b>                |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>10.30am</b>    | <b>Tony Meehan and his family intentions.</b>     |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.00am</b>    | <b>Jane Ann Batchelor R.I.P</b>                   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>11<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10-11.00am</b> | <b>Private prayer &amp; Exposition</b>            |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.00am</b>    | <b>Malcolm Heygate-Browne R.I.P (Anniversary)</b> |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10-11.00am</b> | <b>Private prayer &amp; Exposition</b>            |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>14<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.00am</b>    | <b>For all parishioners</b>                       |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>6.00pm</b>     | <b>Lillian Wilson &amp; Philip Gilmore R.I.P</b>  |

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

## ***“Participation at Mass (1)”***

I think as Catholics when we think about sharing in the Eucharist, we usually talk about “going” to Mass - that could mean that simply being physically present is what it’s all about, and that’s all that matters. When the Church talked about Mass in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, however, she declared:

*“In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else”*

I think that asks us to think in a rather different way – clearly just being physically present is not enough. So, let’s ask ourselves some questions about “participation”:

What does it mean to take part in something?

What do we understand by “full, conscious, active participation”?

How do we personally participate in the celebration of Mass – in what sort of different ways?

What sort of things help us to join in at Mass?

Arriving in good time?

Talking to others before mass, sitting with friends, being silent?

Is where I sit important in helping me take part?

Why?

The simple fact of us all coming together and being in the church at the same time, and joining together in songs, prayers, actions and silences are clear expressions of our communion – making up a community.

Being at Mass is not a “spectator sport” – we are members of the Body of Christ, celebrating together the mysteries of our faith

On Sunday morning, the opening song is chosen to set the tone and main theme of the Mass - do I join in with and so show that this is something I am engaged in with others?

The opening Prayer – “Let us Pray” – do I? There is/should always be a pause after the Priest’s invitation to pray so that we can use that pause to make the prayer our own by putting our intention into it. The opening prayer can also be called “the collect” – and that is because it “collects” all the prayers of everyone present and brings them together in the formal prayer of the priest who presents them to God. So there too we are all called to participate.

*May God bless us all as we gather together and participate fully and consciously in the great sacrifice of the Mass where Jesus is present with us. - Fr Robert*

### **Prayers of the faithful**

9<sup>th</sup> August 2026 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time

We pray for the church throughout the world, the flock of Christ: for all leaders and those in ministry that they may always put their faith in the God of mercy and love.

We pray for those in our world who rule and govern, that they may recognise that their position is one of service to their people.

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

We pray for ourselves that we may be people of faith who seek to avoid disharmony and jealousy, and to be people of compassion and peacemakers.

We pray for those who have died: those known to us, those from this parish, that they may have eternal life.

## **Sunday Readings – a brief reflection**

9<sup>th</sup> August 2026 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Psalm 84; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:23-33

When we reflect on events like the wildfires burning all over the world this summer, or look back to the chaos caused by the Coronavirus pandemic we are given the opportunity to reflect on the scale of natural forces and the very limited response humanity can make. The writers of our first reading and gospel today want to remind us of that as a way of emphasising the power and authority of God. Neither the Elijah account, nor Peter walking on the water are simply vulgar displays of divine might. They are offered to show what is possible for human beings when they accept what God can offer to those who will co-operate with the divine purpose. Elijah has walked for forty days to reach the mountain, he is fleeing for his life from Queen Jezebel, but he is summoned and will be sent back to continue his work as prophet – to speak God's word to those who would rather not hear. Peter, who can seem impetuous in many of the gospel accounts, will be revealed in the early church as the focus of unity and preaching. The two stories we hear today show that it cannot be because of their human might or wisdom or personal resources, but because they are called and accept the invitation to do God's work. That is still the invitation offered to all those who seek to follow God's will – they are able to do so through faith in the power that is given.

There is such an obvious passion in this section of Paul's letter to the Romans and that must challenge any Christian anti-Semitism. It is strange to read Paul and then to reflect on how Christians have so often responded in a completely contrary way to the people of the earlier covenant. It is always important to remind ourselves of such texts in a world where so many social, political and economic forces can encourage hostile prejudice.

*For reflection:*

*Are you ever in awe at the forces of nature? Do you see them as indicators of the power of God? What might they be telling us?*

*Do you sometimes detect antisemitic feelings in yourself?*

### ***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***

***Please pray for Beatrice Guthrie, to be baptised next Sunday, and for  
her parents and godparents***

## **Please help, our church needs more Sacristans, Stewards and Catechists!**

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

Sacristans to help prepare the church for Mass, Stewards, to welcome and assist parishioners at the weekend Masses, and/or to become a Catechist and be involved in the preparation for 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Bishop Nicholas on behalf of the Catholic Children's Society**

"These are challenging times for many families experiencing financial hardship. Such families are often in temporary accommodation after fleeing abuse or the breakdown of relations or the loss of their jobs due to illness and circumstances beyond their control.

***The Essential Grants Programme*** exists to provide essential items to help relieve families' needs. The Catholic Children's Society warmly encourage applications from such families for school uniforms, shoes, beds, mattresses and bedding, clothes for children and newborn babies, cots, bottles, chests of drawers, wardrobes, alongside white goods such as cookers and fridges. They require all such applications to be accompanied by a referee. The process from application to supply is usually within two to three weeks. (For more information on how to donate, please see poster in the narthex). *Thank you.*



### 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:*

Advance notice that Bishop Nicholas will be celebrating a Mass for Marriage at the Cathedral on **Saturday September 12th at midday**. Please see poster in the narthex.

All couples most welcome, including those whose spouses are no longer with us.



***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.*

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**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.