



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
6th September 2026
Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 3**



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

The Parish Office is generally open on Wednesday & Friday mornings

Saturday	5th	6.00pm	Fr. Jonathan Bielawski R.I.P
Sunday	6th	10.30am	For the Holy Union Sisters who are sick and frail
Monday	7th	2.00pm	Requiem Mass for Mr John Chick R.I.P
Tuesday	8th	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	9th		Sr. Gabrielle Stuart R.S.H Diamond Jubilee
Thursday	10th	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Friday	11th	10.00am	Richard & Mary O'Flaherty R.I.P
Saturday	12th	6.00pm	Brendan Hayden R.I.P

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



Today we pray for ReBorne Community Church

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

“They . . .”

I remember preaching on Easter Sunday some years ago and I started by talking about Mary Magdalen who sees Jesus but doesn't recognise him, and when he asks her why she is weeping, she replies “they have taken his body, and we don't know where they have put him.” It's quite a common way of talking in English to use “they” for unknown, unspecified people. Like you might say “I went to Sainsbury's and couldn't find anything thing because **they** have moved everything around.”

When we are talking about a big institution or organisation we often do that – talk about “they” but you'd be unlikely to talk like that if you were talking about your parents, children, siblings or other family members – because they are not anonymous outsiders in the way “they” might be when you're talking about the authorities or an institution. So, for me that raises the question of how do we think about the parish? I know full well that sometimes things don't go smoothly, that sometimes there is confusion or a mix-up, and I know things could be better, but the parish isn't an anonymous organisation. Its made up of all of us, and we all have some responsibility in making things go smoothly so that the Liturgy is celebrated well and with dignity, that the buildings are in good shape and fit for purpose, that the faith is shared with children and adults, that the sick and needy are supported and encouraged, that the visitors are welcomed and people are made to feel they belong.

Of course, that means that a lot of energy and effort have to be expended, that we are all needed to make sure it happens. We can't leave it to others – an anonymous “they” – we have to recognise that there can only be a “we” in the parish where each of us takes a (small) responsibility for ensuring that all goes well – just like we would want to do in a family– because that's the reality of who we are and what a

parish is – we belong – not as shareholders, or employees, or managers, but as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This Sunday we have our Open parish meeting – nothing too heavy, just the chance to recognise what goes on and how it goes on through the ways in which we all contribute to the ongoing life of the parish, and how we make it **our** parish – not something that “they” run!

May God bless us all as we gather together and participate fully in the life of the community of the parish where Jesus is present with us.

Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

6thSeptember 2026 –23rdSunday in Ordinary time

We pray for the church, for all God’s people living out in word and deed, the gospel in the world.

We pray for all who suffer in our world, victims of war and violence, of natural disasters and disease. We pray for all those who seek to bring healing and reconciliation.

We pray for all those who we know are in need. For family, friends, neighbours and the sick. May their needs be met through our efforts and prayers.

We pray for ourselves that we may use our gifts and energy for the good of all.

We pray for the dead, that they may be welcomed to the table of the Lord.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 6th September Twenty third Sunday in Ordinary time

Ezk 33:7-9, Ps 94, Rm 13:8-10, Mt 18:15-20.

The very succinct passage from Romans given to us today is designed by Paul to be the over-riding principle for life within the community and between its members. The very nature of the Church means that being a member impacts on all those other members. If each member is guided by love in every case, there is no problem in community life Paul insists. Matthew in the gospel is aware that, in reality, the life of the Christian community is not necessarily so straightforward. In our contemporary culture in the West, faith and its practice are seen as private matters, but in the Christian community that cannot be the case because through baptism the members become part of the body of Christ and so have an intimate and deep relationship with one another. It is clear in Matthew's gospel that he is aware of these issues, and so we have these very explicit statements from the Lord on how to deal with errant members. The aim, from the beginning, is to "win back" the brother or sister who has erred. If an initial private challenge does not result in the desired end, then a few others should be involved, and if that fails, then the whole community should be involved. Only if the decision of the community is rejected should the sinner be excommunicated, and excommunication is ultimately the decision of the one who rejects the community. The last two sections of the passage are significant (they are "Amen, Amen" sayings – solemn pronouncements). The formal action of the community in pronouncing on the behaviour of one of its members becomes the judgement of heaven. The saying about "two or three meet in my name" is often used to express Christ's presence when the faithful are gathered in prayer. The reality of that saying in its context is to express divine sanction for the action of the Church in disciplining its members. That is very significant and should be reflected on carefully by those who want to insist on making one's church membership something simply personal and private.

For reflection:

In what ways do you feel the Church is truly a community of faith?

In what ways do you experience that in your day-to-day life?

Church Services this week

***Mass in the parish church – Monday 2pm Requiem Mass for John Chick;
Wednesday and Friday at 10.00am***

Private prayer with exposition Tuesday and Thursday 10.00 - 11.00am

Please pray

***For John Chick whose Funeral will be held here on 7th September, and
for his family.***

***For Mike and Alex who will be enrolled into the catechumenate this
Sunday in preparation to join the parish.***

***For Maeve to be baptised here next Sunday as she is welcomed into the
parish family***

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Church cleaning – more willing hands needed!

The present cleaning group has been meeting since earlier this year, however, there are times when due to commitments, they are not always able to meet regularly at the same time.

If other parishioners could join in, it would enable a cleaning schedule twice monthly.

Please feel free to contact :

***Mary Wemyss, Lulu Paul, Jacky Sylvester, Maria Connolly
or Linda Guppy***

Alternatively please drop in and join us – we are a friendly group!

Next cleaning session on Tuesday 15th September at 2pm.

Dates for your Diary

***Craft Club Saturday,
5th September in the church hall, 3.00-4.30pm***

Open to children of all ages, and their parents, with a variety of craft activities to choose from. Booking is not essential and there is no charge for materials or refreshments.

Please do just come along and join us! Katya Heygate-Browne

OPEN MEETING

Sunday 6th September following 10.30am Mass

*Your chance to find out what is happening in the parish
and to have your say!*

*Please do come along and support your church and fellow
parishioners.*

Parish Mum's Group in the Church Hall

Friday 25th September 10.30am-12.30pm.

This is simply a chance to come together, have a chat, and get to know other mums in the parish, with your children alongside you. We'll have **tea, coffee, and cake**, and something to keep the children happy too, with **toys, colouring, and activities**. *No pressure, no expectations*

Just a friendly space to meet, talk, and build community. No need to book, just pop in – we'd love you to join us!



From the Plymouth Office:

From Monday September 7th 'Going Deeper into the Catechism'
(online for approximately an hour).

Our shared and prayerful journey through the Catechism of the Catholic Church, reading the supporting Scriptures, continues this Autumn on paragraph 422, in Section One, Chapter Two, 'I believe in Jesus Christ the only Son of God.'

New members are welcome! For a link or more information contact:

deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

Evangelisation Roadshow

Saturday 26th September at St Benedict's Gillingham

10 am to 2.15 pm.

We (the Diocesan Evangelisation Team) are bringing the Roadshow to different areas of the diocese so that you can hear about the latest outreach projects and participate in the excitement of sharing ideas with others from Dorset. Refreshments (coffee/tea, croissants and fruit) will be provided but please bring a packed lunch to see you through! Fr Cletus will start the day with Mass at 10am with an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The presentations will start at 11am then a workshop so that we can harvest/discuss your ideas from the day. We finish with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We are looking forward to growing in mission with you in north Dorset! ALL welcome!

For further information – contact

: pippa.worth@prcdtr.org.uk



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.