



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
17th May 2026**



**Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 3
7th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

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	16th	6.00pm	Celebrant's Intentions
Sunday	17th	10.30am	The Kennedy family Intentions
Monday	18th	10.00am	
Tuesday	19th	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	20th	10.00am	Private Intention
Thursday	21st	10-11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition
Friday	22nd	10.00am	
Saturday	23rd	6.00pm	For all our parishioners

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 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

“Love begets love”

A reflection from Pope Leo

“Jesus addresses his disciples during the Last Supper. As he turns the bread and wine into a living expression of his love, Christ says: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments”. This statement frees us from the misconception that we are loved because we keep the commandments, as if our righteousness were a prerequisite for God’s love. On the contrary, God’s love is the basis for our righteousness. We truly keep the commandments according to God’s will when we recognise his love for us, just as Christ revealed it to the world. Jesus’ words are therefore an invitation to enter into a relationship, not blackmail or a suspicious ultimatum.

This is why the Lord commands us to love one another as he has loved us: it is Jesus’ love that begets love within us. Christ himself is the standard, the measure of true love: the love that is faithful forever, pure and unconditional. The love that knows no “buts” or “maybes;” the love that gives of itself without seeking to possess; the love that gives life without taking anything in return. Because God loved us first, we too can love, and when we truly love God, we truly love one another. It is like life itself: just as only those who have received life can live, so too, only those who have been loved can love. The Lord’s commandments are therefore a way of life that heal us from false loves. They are a spiritual lifestyle that is a path towards salvation.

It is precisely because he loves us that the Lord does not leave us alone in life’s trials; he promises us the Paraclete, that is, the Advocate, the “Spirit of truth”. This gift is one that “the world cannot receive”, as long as it persists in evil, oppressing the poor, excluding the weak and killing the innocent. Those who respond to Jesus’ love for all, on the other hand, will find in the Holy Spirit an ally who will never fail: “You know him,” says Jesus, “for he dwells with you, and will be in you”. We can therefore bear witness to God, who is love, always and everywhere. Love is not an idea

of the human mind, but the reality of divine life, through which all things were created out of nothing and redeemed from death.

By offering us true and eternal love, Jesus shares with us his identity as the beloved Son: “I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you”. This all-encompassing communion of life refutes the Accuser — the Paraclete’s adversary, the spirit opposed to our defender. In fact, while the Holy Spirit is the power of truth, the Accuser is the “father of lies”, who seeks to set humanity against God and people against one another: the very opposite of what Jesus does by saving us from evil and uniting us as a people of brothers and sisters in the Church.”

God bless us all, and may we rejoice as we await the coming of the Spirit in this season – and always – Fr Robert

+ + +

Copies of a simple form of prayer, which can be used daily for a novena for individuals, or with others, starting at the Ascension and leading up to Pentecost, put together by Fr Robert is available in the narthex.

+ + +

**Prayers of the faithful
17th May 2026 – 7th Sunday of Easter**

We pray for the church throughout the world: for all who form the holy people of God, who participate in the very life of God.

We pray for those in our world who seek security and safety. We pray for all those who strive to meet their needs.

We pray for our parish community: for all those who serve the body of Christ here by witness, ministry and prayer. May the Holy Spirit build up our community through these members.

We pray for all those known to us who have need of our prayers, the sick, the anxious and the sorrowful.

We pray for all those who have died: that they may share in the Resurrection of Christ.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection
Sunday 17th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14 Ps26 1P 4:13-16 Jn17:1-11

The reading from the Book of Acts which we hear today follows directly from the reading given to us on the Feast of the Ascension three days ago. The disciple's response to the Ascension of Jesus and the promise that went with it is to return to the Upper Room and gather in prayer with Mary, the women and other relations of Jesus.

In the book of Acts Luke often gives the picture of the faithful gathered in prayer awaiting guidance from above, that is very deliberate on his part, because for Luke it is the Holy Spirit who is the one who directs and guides the church, and the task of the people who constitute the Church is to wait in prayer so as to be able to discern the call of the Spirit. In an age of activism it is useful to remember this significant precedent – not all issues that arise can be 'solved' immediately, and a time of waiting in prayer and discernment is an essential part of the life of the church. Even in one's own life of faith it can be difficult to adopt the counter intuitive policy of "don't just do something, sit there!" The gospel for today also gives us a good reason to be confident in taking such an approach. It is most significant that the subject of Jesus' intimate prayer to the Father is the ones he leaves behind – the ones who have accepted him and believed that he came from the Father. When the Church gathers in prayer to discern the will of God, it can be confident that Jesus himself is praying for them. It is also worth noting that when we think of "eternal life" we are not thinking primarily about something that will happen in the future: "Eternal life is this, to know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." For John eternal life is already given now to those who believe that Jesus is indeed sent from the Father and is glorified in them. The return to the Father that Jesus speaks of in this passage reveals that there is no longer a sharp division between the life of this world and of the world of God – the Resurrection and Ascension have allowed them to interpenetrate.

For reflection:

In what ways do you truly feel your life and your future is totally secure in the hands of the Lord?

As we approach Pentecost in what ways do you expect to experience or observe the working of the Holy Spirit in the community of faith?

Church Services this week:

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

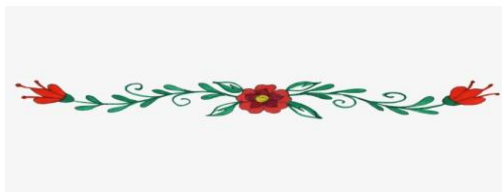
Private prayer with Exposition Tuesday and Thursday 10.00- 11.00am.



Please pray for:

Angela Fallowfield who died recently and whose Requiem will be here on Friday 29th May.

May she Rest in Peace.



*The St Anne Garden
Situating to the left of the rear church entrance.
Do come and view!*

Briars and brambles have been removed, soil improved and rotavated. The pathway to the statue is now open with paving reinstated. Shrubs, hand pruned before Easter have new growth and Japanese anemone and Lily of the Valley, contributions in the past by gardener parishioners have emerged. Seven new shrubs have been planted, six of which together with the labour cost of the clearing have been sponsored by parishioners.

It is hoped to add a few more plants and in the Autumn small bulbs, such as snowdrops, crocus, iris, anemone and chionodoxa to give some early Spring colour. Suggestions regarding choice of plants would be welcomed and followed wherever feasible. We hope the new planting will complement the seasonal displays nearby, the rose bed at the front entrance and the White Garden beside the side chapel entrance.

Donations towards this stage can be made using the GARDEN heading with Cashless Giving until the end of June. Grateful thanks to all who have contributed and encouraged. *Anne Harriss, Mary Wemyss (0797 6182531)*

Dates for your Diary

Parish Mum's Group in the Church Hall

Mums, you're warmly invited to the **Parish Mum's Group**

Friday 22nd May 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. Whether you have a baby, school-aged children, teenagers, or a mix of everything, you are very welcome.

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!*



Pentecost Sunday 'Bring and Share'
Sunday 24th May, after 10:30 am Mass
Please join us to celebrate!

We kindly invite you to bring savoury or sweet food donations to share. Hopefully these might represent or celebrate your own cultural background e.g. Welsh cakes from our Welsh parishioners, but they do not have to. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex to let us know what you're bringing and where it's from. If you have already signed up, feel free to stick with your original offering!

Mass with Anointing of the Sick

Sunday 31st May at 3pm

All welcome at this beautiful Mass. Any help on the day would be much appreciated - sign-up sheets will be in the narthex shortly.

From the Plymouth Office:

Online Webinar – Violence Against Women in the Bible

Tuesday 26th May 2026- 10am until midday

What does a biblical understanding of violence against women look like? How might this understanding inform our responses as Catholic communities to violence against women in our churches and in wider society? Join the webinar to hear from the panel of theologians and practitioners. Hosted by CSAN's Domestic Abuse Alliance and Safe In Faith.

Click the link to register [CSAN Domestic Abuse Alliance \(26-May-2026\)](https://charitysuite.com/events/CSAN-Domestic-Abuse-Alliance-26-May-2026) · CharitySuite Events

Caritas May Newsletter:

Please click the link to read the latest news of love in action around our diocese :<https://tinyurl.com/y9bjk8a8>

The Diocesan Newsletter:

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-A26C2BBAA727D7802540EF23F30FEDED>

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 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: Jamie Mead and Jennie Haynes

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Deacon Jonathan Simon,
Georgina Bruce, Tricia Chapman,
Tim Kelly, Tess O'Rourke, Lulu Paul,
Sr. Rose.

HALL BOOKINGS:

Please email or phone the Office.