



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
19th July 2026
Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 4**



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	18th	6.00pm	Celebrant's Intention
Sunday	19th	10.30am	David O'Flynn R.I.P
Monday	20th	10.00am	Kathleen Lillis R.I.P
Tuesday	21st	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Wednesday	22nd	10.00am	Ann Woods R.I.P
Thursday	23rd	10-11.00am	Private prayer & Exposition
Friday	24th	10.00am	Deacon Jonathan Simon's intentions
Saturday	25th	6.00pm	People of the Parish

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 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

“Telling stories”

It's one of those things that children always seem to love: “Tell me a story.” Now it might just be to put off the moment when the light goes out, but it is much more than that; children – and most of us if we are honest – love to hear stories, whether they be memories from older people, fairy tales for little ones, or made up nonsense. And we've all got caught up in it, making up ridiculous stories and loving it.

I think it is not unimportant that so much of Jesus' teaching was given in the form of stories. We usually call them parables to make them sound more serious – but they are “just” stories. Because stories can easily have depth and a vision that is full of wisdom and insight. Jesus knew that and that was why he crafted these profound and focussed stories to catch people into looking at themselves in a new way. Because that is the purpose of the parables – they are not simply stories to entertain, they are stories that invite us to think, to reflect to ponder – above all to ponder how we live and the priorities we live by.

That is why so often we encounter paradox in parables – the last men employed to go into the vineyard are paid as much as the first; the one who has much will end up with nothing, while “the last will be first”; it will be the poor and lame who will enter the wedding feast. The wisdom of the world does not apply in the kingdom of heaven and the rich and powerful will not have priority. When we come across stories like that – parables – it invites us to look at things differently. That is a key concept in the teaching of the gospel. It is important to remember that a key word “repentance” means literally “think again”. Over the next couple of Sundays, we have a lot of parables – they will be familiar of course, but we need to remember that they are invitations to see things differently – to see things with the eyes of the kingdom!

God bless us all and may we all rejoice in the glory of the wisdom of the kingdom revealed in Jesus' teaching. - Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

19th July 2026 –16th Sunday in Ordinary time

We pray for the church throughout the world: especially for the shepherds of the church entrusted by the Lord with teaching God's faithful people.

We pray for those who live in places in the world where hunger, violence and disease threaten life each day. May the Christian people bring consolation to those in need, and may we hold them in our prayer.

We pray for all those in the parish who have need of our prayers, and especially for grandparents who share their faith with their grandchildren. We pray especially for those who care for the sick and housebound.

We pray for ourselves that we may learn from the parables of Jesus to understand the truths of the kingdom.

We pray for those who have died: that they may share in the light of God's face.

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 19th July- Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 85; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

As with the gospel of last week, Jesus makes a distinction between the crowds who hear the parables and the disciples who are given an explanation. The crowds are just left to wander off in puzzlement, but those who have made a commitment to the Lord are given help to understand - but the understanding of parables is clearly not simply an intellectual exercise. Parables are insights into the ways of the kingdom. The three parables given today are all dynamic – the wheat, the mustard seed and the yeast are all living and their commonality is about growth: the kingdom of heaven is not a static institution or political organisation, it is something with a life of its own that has its own inner dynamism. That, says Jesus to his disciples, is what you are caught up in – and that is what these parables say to us too if we accept the role of disciples. We do

not control the kingdom: we are invited to enter into it and allow ourselves to be caught up in it. And the parable of the wheat and the weeds reminds us that this is not something we can take on lightly – this is very serious. The parable has a truly eschatological dimension – it relates to the final judgement, and we are invited to recognise that and see that the options facing us are being wheat that is gathered into the Lord's barns, or weeds that are gathered to be burnt. There is a stark either/or offered by the parable – but that is mitigated somewhat both by the words of the owner and by the reading from Wisdom offered to us as a complement to the gospel. The owner of the field delays the pulling up of the weeds – there is time for conversion before the final judgement. The passage from the book of Wisdom emphasises not only the sovereignty of the God who is judge, but the leniency also. It acknowledges God's power, but also offers hope to those who seek to live the ways of God. Human weakness is a given here – as in the passage from Paul – but so is the desire of God to bring people back to him.

For reflection:

Are there some parables that you love and which speak strongly to you? Which ones are they?

Are there some which don't feel helpful? Can you think why that might be the case?

Church Services this week

***Mass in the parish church – Monday and Wednesday and Friday at
10.00am***

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

***The Mystery of faith acclamation: "We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again".***

We have received a message from Polly Walker's sister to say Polly is now sadly terminally ill and does not have long to live.



Polly has asked that we pray for her, and she sends her own love and prayers to everyone in the parish.

A message from Andrew Houseley:

Our small parish group is looking for new members to rejuvenate the group which has been meeting for nearly 25 years.

We meet one evening a month and we normally sing a hymn, read the Gospel for the next Sunday, pray quietly and then share what it has meant to us. We pray for the intentions of the group and finish with tea and biscuits and a chat.

Being a member of the group has enriched my personal faith. Our meetings are a precious time when I can listen to God's word, share what it means to me and listen to what it means to the other members - having my intentions prayed for by the group is powerful for me.

If you are interested in learning more or in joining us for a meeting, please contact Andrew Houseley on andrewhouseley@btinternet.com.

Dates for your Diary

THERE ARE NO UP AND COMING EVENTS FOR A FEW WEEKS -
EVERYONE IS TAKING A WELL-EARNED SUMMER BREAK...



...TO YOU ALL!

From the Plymouth Office:

Bishop Nicholas has made a recording of his pastoral message for this weekend – please click on the following link to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rli9s20vS9o>.

People with a hearing impairment can access subtitles via the settings icon at the bottom of the screen but please note that there are some errors in the auto-generated subtitles.

Catechetical Summer Camp 2026

27th - 31st July, Buckfast Abbey.

At this years Summer Camp young people aged 9-12 will explore Pope Francis and Pope Leo's Dilexi Te - 'I love you'. Summer camp has been enjoyed by many generations. It is a great way for young people to meet others from across the Diocese and gain a sense of belonging to the Diocesan and catholic family.

Cost £150 per person. To book and for further information please email:
summercamps@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 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, Lulu Paul, Sr. Rose.

HALL BOOKINGS:

Please email or phone the Office.