



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
26th April 2026**



**Daily Mass Year 2 – Psalter 4
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

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.

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|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Saturday | 25th | 6.00pm | The People of the Parish |
| Sunday | 26th | 10.30am | Caroline Newstead R.I.P |
| Monday | 27th | 10.00am | Sister Pauline R.I.P |
| Tuesday | 28th | 10-11.00am | Private Prayer & Exposition |
| Wednesday | 29th | 10.00am | Michael & Eileen Farebrother's intentions |
| Thursday | 30th | 10-11.00am | Private Prayer & Exposition |
| Friday | 1st May | 10.00am | Joan Strapp R.I.P |
| Saturday | 2nd | 6.00pm | Private Intention |



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

Today we pray for Society of Friends, Sherborne

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

“Confirmation”

This Saturday Bishop Nicholas will confirm many young people in the chapel at Leweston.

They are from the schools here in Sherborne, and this will be the first Confirmation celebrated by a Bishop here in four years - thanks be to God!

To help us all appreciate the significance of this celebration of the sacrament, I offer you some words of Pope Francis from two years ago.

“The sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit reaches us primarily through two channels: the *Word of God* and the *Sacraments*. And among all the Sacraments, there is one that is quintessentially the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit, and this is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the New Testament, in addition to baptism with water, another rite is mentioned, the *imposition of hands*, which has the purpose of communicating the Holy Spirit visibly and in a charismatic way, with effects that are analogous to those produced by the Apostles at Pentecost. The Acts of the Apostles refer to a significant episode in this regard. Having heard that some in Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John there from Jerusalem. They “came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit”

Moreover, there is what Saint Paul writes in the Second Letter to the Corinthians: “it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (1:21-22). The guarantee of the Spirit. The theme of the Holy Spirit as a “royal seal” with which Christ marks his

sheep is at the basis of the doctrine of the “indelible character” conferred by this rite.

With the passing of time, the rite of anointing took shape as a Sacrament in itself, assuming diverse forms and content in the various ages and different rites of the Church. What the Sacrament of Confirmation is in the understanding of the Church seems to me to be described in a very simple and clear way by the Catechism:

“Confirmation is for all the faithful what Pentecost was for the entire Church. It reinforces the baptismal incorporation into Christ and the Church and the consecration to the prophetic, royal and priestly mission. It communicates the abundance of the gifts of the Spirit. If, therefore, Baptism is the Sacrament of birth, Confirmation is the Sacrament of growth; for this very reason it is also the Sacrament of witness, because this is closely linked to the maturity of Christian existence”.

We must ensure that it is the Sacrament of the beginning of active participation in the life of the Church. May the Spirit help us to take a few steps in this direction!”

God bless us all, especially those to be confirmed by Bishop Nicholas this week that all of us may encounter the Risen Lord who has come to us above all in the sacraments.

- Fr Robert

Prayers of the faithful

26th April 2026 – 4th Sunday of Easter

We pray for the church: for all those who follow Jesus the Good Shepherd and listen to his voice.

We pray for those in our world who live with uncertainty, anxiety and insecurity. May the Good Shepherd lead them to secure pastures.

We pray for all those caught up in war and struggle, we pray for those seeking to bring peace to the Middle East, and those helping the great number of displaced persons and refugees.

We pray for the young people who will be confirmed here this week and for those from our parish preparing for First Communion. May this time of preparation be a time of blessing.

We pray for ourselves that we may hear the voice of the Good Shepherd calling us to follow him. We pray especially on this Vocations Sunday for those he is calling to the priesthood and religious life.

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

Please pray for:

Those preparing to receive the sacraments this Eastertide, especially the young people being confirmed at Leweston this Saturday.

Nancy Church to be baptised this Saturday at the 6pm Mass

Sunday Readings – a brief reflection

Sunday 26th April – 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14, 36-41 Ps 22 1Peter 2:20-25 Jn 10:1-10

On the fourth Sunday of Easter in each of the three cycles we have a part of Jesus' 'Good Shepherd' teaching – it is a long and sophisticated 'parable' as John calls it (v6). It is worth noting that in today's action we twice have the double 'Amen' (translated in the Jerusalem Bible of the Lectionary as "most solemnly"). This points to the fact that this is Jesus' formal teaching and, we should note, it is a teaching addressed against the Pharisees ('they' v6). The event immediately leading into this teaching has been the healing of the man born blind – one of John's key faith encounters. The man born blind has been rejected by the Pharisees and has come to 'sight' both physical and spiritual in recognising Jesus as Lord (9:38). The final verse before Jesus' teaching on the shepherd and sheep is his condemnation of them: "Blind? If you were you would not be guilty, but since you say, 'we see' your guilt remains'. This makes the passage we read today very provocative – Jesus is contrasting himself with all those who have come before – he is the shepherd, those who claimed to be shepherd were 'thieves and

brigands' (cf. the great discourse of Ezekiel on the shepherds of Israel: Ezk 34 1-10; 37:24-28). The image of the shepherd who is known by the gatekeeper, who knows the sheep, who calls them by name, whose voice they recognise and follow, and who leads them out to water and pasture, is all positive and reassuring. But behind it lies a fierce invective that can be easily missed. After the second 'Amen, amen' the focus changes to Jesus as the gate to the sheepfold – such that through him is safety, and freedom and pasture – all that anyone who believes needs. The strong contrast between those who come to “steal and kill and destroy” and Jesus is absolute: “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” The 'parable' is moved to another dimension: Jesus is the source of life – and ultimately - the only source, as the man born blind and all others who acknowledge Jesus as Lord discover – including we who gather to hear this gospel today.

For reflection:

In our urban and sophisticated world, do you feel the image of the Shepherd is still viable? In what ways?

*Do you feel that Jesus comes to offer **YOU** life to the full”?*

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.

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Sherborne Churches Together AGM

Tuesday 28th April at St Paul's Church (DT 9 4DU) at 7.00 for a 7.30pm start. Refreshments beforehand.

There will be an overview of the work of SCT and a presentation by Rev. Helen Lynch who is the new warden at the Pilsdon Community and she'll be talking about the life of the community. Pilsdon offers a place of welcome, refuge and sanctuary to people who need some time out in a safe, rural, self-sustaining, Christian setting.

It will be very interesting, do please come if you can!

Dates for your Diary

Spring Cleaning continues!

The church cleaning group will meet on **Tuesday 28 April at 2pm.**

New volunteers most welcome!

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### *Parish Mum's Group in the Church Hall*

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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!*

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Friday 1st May – Quiz Night

6.30pm for 7.00pm start, £3 entry fee per person, maximum of 6 per team

~ bring your own refreshments.

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### **Craft Club Saturday 2nd May**

**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!

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'Lunches Together'

Following the success of the Lenten lunches, we are pleased to announce that we will continue lunches on the **first Wednesday of every month, starting Wednesday 6th May 2026, at 11.30am.**

Any funds raised will continue to be split between CAFOD & Rendezvous. We look forward to seeing you there throughout the year!

From the Plymouth Office:

***Heatree Residential 15th - 17th May, 'Go make disciples of all nations'
Matt 28:19***

Heatree is an outdoor activity centre based on Dartmoor. The weekend is open to those aged 9 - 12 (school years 5 - 7). Whilst enjoying high ropes and raft building (amongst other activities) young people will have the chance to explore the Sunday readings through discussion, crafts and games. Cost £90.

To book follow the link: [Heatree 2026 15th-17th May – Fill in form](#)
Further information email: Saskia or Ruby: youth@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, Tess O'Rourke,
Lulu Paul, Sr. Rose.

HALL BOOKINGS:

Please email or phone the Office.