



**Catholic Parish of
The Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Sherborne
21st April 2024**



**Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year B – Week 4
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

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

Office will be open on Wednesday & Friday 9.30 – 12.30 this week
Please email or leave a phone message and we will get back to you.

Mass

Saturday 20 th	6.00 pm	Joseph Fallon RIP
Sunday 21 st	10.30 am	Malcolm Heygate-Browne RIP
Monday 22 nd	10.00 am	Fr Michael Cole RIP
Tuesday 23 rd St George – Patron of England	10 - 11.00 am	Private Prayer
Wednesday 24 th	10.00 am	Tony Aplin RIP
Thursday 25 th	10 - 11.00 am	Private Prayer
Friday 26 th	10.00 am	Mary Shiels RIP

Intentions

Confessions on Saturdays 5.00-5.45pm or on request

Today is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is an opportunity to pray for vocations and to encourage those who may be considering ordained or religious life. The Diocese of Plymouth also asks for your assistance in supporting our seminarians through their training and formation, both through prayer and financial support. If you are able to contribute to our **Seminarians' Fund**, either as a single donation or through regular giving, please pick up a leaflet or go to <https://priesthoodplymouth.co.uk/resources>

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



Prayers: For vocations to the priesthood and the religious life; may we be open to God's call.

For priests and religious; may their lives bear fruit in plenty.

For all the Confirmation candidates may they be filled by the Holy Spirit and continue to grow in love and understanding.

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

Today we pray for Sherborne Abbey church, we hope that this will bring the Christian family closer together.



Liturgy of the Word

Spend a little time during the week preparing the readings for next week, the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

First Reading Acts 9:26-31

From a fanatic persecutor, Paul becomes a zealous apostle. At the beginning he is distrusted, Barnabas vouches for him and Paul is accepted, but even then he stirs up controversies.

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

We are certain that God is present in us and that we are united with him if we believe in Jesus Christ and love one another with a real and active love.

Gospel John 15:1-8

Only when we are united with Jesus in faith and love, like branches on a vine, can our lives be fruitful and God will give us everything that is good.

“Confirmation”.

On Easter Sunday morning here Efrain was baptised at the main Sunday Mass, so there were many present who could be part and pray for the new member of our community. The parents and godparents made solemn promises to lead and support him in his faith. And although Efrain was very attentive and looked like he was enjoying the attention and happy to be there, we know that he probably didn't take a lot in – and certainly none of the significance of his baptism.

Baptism is the foundational Christian sacrament; it makes us daughters and sons of God and brothers and sisters with one another and with Christ; that is why it has such a high profile in our Liturgy. Think of the renewal of baptismal promises we made over Easter, the solemn blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, the prominent place the font has in our church, think of the way we sprinkle holy water at funerals, and how we dip our hands into the holy water stoop as we enter church and make the sign of the cross.

So we have to learn what baptism does for us – as Efrain will do – and we learn that by living in a community of faith and sharing that faith and learning from one another and from the scriptures and teaching of the Church – and that community is primarily our parish. At some point as we grow up, we come to accept that faith and try to live it, not based on the faith of our parents and godparents, but by our own choice. If you think back, you may well remember something about the time when that happened to you.

That transition from simply receiving faith passively to embracing it actively is celebrated in the Church by the sacrament of confirmation – the individual ‘confirms’ for themselves their baptism. It may be a gradual process or something striking and significant, but it is important, because it is not only a decision by the individual, but it is also a source of grace and power to live the Christian life. Over the next few weeks in the Liturgy we will hear a lot about the Holy Spirit and the power of God that is made present. That power, given in baptism to Efrain, will be confirmed in the sacrament of confirmation – as it was in you and me.

This weekend nineteen young people from Leweston, Sherborne Boys' School, and Sherborne School for girls will be confirmed at Leweston. They are taking responsibility for their faith – the faith given in baptism. Pray for them, ask God to give them the power of the Holy Spirit, and ask God to make that power alive in your lives too.

May God bless all our parish community this Eastertide and confirm us in our faith as we celebrate the Lord's gift of the Spirit to his beloved daughters and sons.

Fr Robert.

Prayers of the Faithful Fourth Sunday of Easter.

We pray for the church throughout the world: 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 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.

Bible reference for the readings for this Sunday – and a short reflection from Fr Robert

Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12 Ps 117 1Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18

Chapter 10 of John's gospel contains the extended 'parable' of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This powerful image is redolent with Old Testament echoes (Ezekiel chapter 34, Psalm 22 (23), David the shepherd etc.) and is present too in the synoptic tradition. Part of this discourse is used each year on the fourth Sunday of Easter when "Good Shepherd Sunday" is a day of prayer for vocations. Today's passage emphasises the way in which the shepherd (Christ) knows his sheep personally and lays down his life for them. The Paschal Mystery is presented very much as something that is deliberately embraced out of love – love of the Father for the Son, and love of the Son for the threatened flock. Jesus willingly "lays down his life" for his sheep and can "take it up again". That is precisely the tone that John adopts in his account of the Passion which we heard on Good Friday. The reference to the "other sheep I have that are not of this fold" can be taken as referring to a universal mission, the extension of the invitation beyond Israel, and is also used regularly as an imperative to the unity of Christians. John's gospel is always written on a large scale, and his vision is always vast. Those who accept the call to follow – especially those who also take up a role as pastors - should never expect to find a cosy niche; they may not actually lay down their lives, but there will always be personal cost – because Jesus in John's gospel always calls his followers further.

For reflection

Do you feel Jesus the Good Shepherd is calling you go out of your "comfort zone" to help the lost sheep?

Does the idea of Jesus being both the Good Shepherd, but also the lamb of sacrifice encourage you to ponder your faith?

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.

Thank you.

To the innumerable people who give their time and energy to enable us to celebrate our faith in this parish all manner of ways.

Those from our parish, from Leweston, from Sherborne Boys' school and Sherborne school for Girls who will be confirmed at Leweston this weekend and thank you to all those who helped prepare them and have arranged the liturgy. May these candidates grow in their faith and knowledge of God and may we support them by our prayers and example.

*Please note weekday mass in the church this week:
Monday Wednesday and Friday.*

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 there are specific needs you have and want help – let us know.

If you do not wish to receive any email communication from the parish, please let us know.

If you are reading this online, but would like to receive it as an email, please contact the parish office through the link to this website.

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.

Leweston School - Foundation Governor Appointment.

Leweston School invites applications from members of the Parish of the Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm the position of Foundation Governor to join a proactive and successful Board of Governors. In addition to taking on the normal duties and responsibilities of a school Governor, the role of Foundation Governor is specifically to preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school and ensure that the standards of worship and religious education are maintained.

Should you be interested in applying to be a Governor, please contact Sara Hamnett, the Bursar's PA, on 01963 210691

or hamnetts@leweston.dorset.sch.uk. She can also put you in touch with the Chair of Governors, Ian Lucas, should you have further questions.

Foundation Governors also require a recommendation from Fr. Robert.

Dates for your Diary

First Holy Communion preparation in the Hall on Friday 26th April at 4.00pm

Scripture Matters with Gay Barry on 26th April 10.45-12.15 in the Hall



Parish Quiz Night Friday 26th April 6.30 for 7.00pm start – Teams of 6

Please register your Team on the list in the Narthex – if you are individuals, without a full team, please indicate so on the list.

Modern Slavery Awareness Event

Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude.

Victims are often hidden away, may be unable to leave their situation, or may not come forward because of fear or shame. This 2-hour event will hear from a speaker about modern slavery in our Diocese and how we are called to respond and follow with group discussions and a Q&A with an expert panel. There will be practical advice about what to look out for and what we can do if we have concerns. The event will take place after Mass on **Tuesday 30th April** from 10.30-12.30 at the Church Hall, St Mary's Church, 211A Wimborne Rd, Poole, BH15 2EG . Please use the QR code, email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk or call 01364 645425 to register.

Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse – 30th April 2024

The Bishop's of England and Wales have set aside the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter as a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. This is a day of prayer for those who have been abused, during a season of hope and new life. This year's focus is on communities who have been directly affected by allegations or convictions related to abuse – especially, but not exclusively, within the Church.

Rosary Reflection Day Saturday 4th May for all the family at Church of the Holy Ghost, Yeovil 1.30 – 4.00pm – see poster for more details.

Rise to Our Cause on Ascension Thursday

Following the success of our inaugural CCSP Ascension Day fundraiser last year at Buckfast Abbey, this year's Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)'s 'Rise to Our Cause' event is being held at St Mary's in Poole on Ascension **Thursday, 9 May 2024**.

The event will start with Holy Mass in the church at 12 noon, followed by a buffet lunch in the church hall before this year's Guest Speaker, the hugely popular David Wells, who has talked at many events in the past all across the Diocese.

There will also be a raffle to help raise money for CCSP to continue to help families of all faiths and none – so please don't forget to bring a little cash.

Tickets are now on sale for **£10** with all proceeds going towards helping vulnerable children and families living in our Diocese.

Please email vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk or call **01364 645420**

Tony Aplin RIP For those who remember Tony and his wife Maria, who were valued members of this parish for many years, you may like to attend his funeral which will be on Thursday 9th May at 2.00pm at St Luke & St Teresa Church in Wincanton, BA9 9DH

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 11am Thursday. There is someone in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30 – 12.30

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

HALL BOOKINGS: Please email or phone the Office.

PARISH SECRETARIES: Claire Burden and Kristine Mountain.

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Caroline Field, Deacon Jonathan Simon
Georgina Bruce, Tricia Chapman, Michael Farebrother, Tim Kelly, Tess O'Rourke,
Lulu Paul, Olympia Pudelko