

PURBECK CATHOLIC PARISHES NEWSLETTER – 29th August 2026

PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS & ST JOSEPH Parish Church: St Joseph's, The Square, Folly Lane, Wool BH20 6DU Mass Centres: St Edward King & Martyr: Shatters Hill, Wareham – BH20 4QP St Mary's Chapel: Lulworth Castle Park, East Lulworth – BH20 5QS Primary School: St Mary & St Joseph's, Folly Lane, Wool BH20 6DS Tel: 01929 462565 www.stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk Safeguarding: Anthony Nott: 07541 303 941	PARISH OF SWANAGE Parish Church: The Holy Spirit & St Edward, 1 Victoria Avenue, Swanage BH19 1AH Swanage Hall Booking: 01929 427047 Primary School: St Mary's, Northbrook Rd, Swanage BH19 1QA Tel: 01929 424909 www.stmarysswanage.dorset.sch.uk Besom Project: 07519977732 Safeguarding: Mary Foster 07748006056
Parish Priest: Canon Timothy Lewis, 1, Victoria Avenue, Swanage BH19 1AH Tel: 01929 422491 or 07581068555. Email: timothy.lewis@prcdtr.org.uk Website: https://purbeckcatholic.co.uk Part of Plymouth Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity No 213227	

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF YEAR A

Saturday 29 th	6.00 PM	LULWORTH (5 th Sat)	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY YR A Mass bk p122 Cr p12 Pr SOT VI p67 EPIII p27	
SUNDAY 30 th	9.00 AM 11.00 AM	SWANAGE WOOL		
Tuesday 1 ST SEPT	9.00AM	SWANAGE		
Wednesday 2 ND	10.00AM	WOOL		
Thursday 3 RD	10.00AM	WAREHAM	ST GREGORY THE GREAT Pp	
Friday 4 TH	9.00AM	SWANAGE	St Cuthbert Bp	
Saturday 5 TH	6.00PM	LULWORTH (1st Sat)	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY YR A	
SUNDAY 6 TH	9.00 AM 11.00 AM	SWANAGE WOOL		

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK : Please pray for the sick and housebound: Maureen Lyons, Jackie Riley, Dot Bonfield, Greta Marshallsay, Irena Giusta, Wayne Axon.

ST EDWARD'S WAREHAM ROSARY GROUP: Thursday evenings 7:30 pm. Contact Vikki Smith 07855166883
vikki.smith97@gmail.com for more info or for prayer intentions.

WOOL Social/Coffee at 10.30 Wednesday.

SWANAGE PRAYER GROUP: Next meeting Friday 4th September after mass (9.45 a.m. if no mass) saying the rosary for peace and for other intentions. Contact Pat Lancaster 07917477313.

THE WORD THIS WEEKEND

The First Reading (Jer. 20:7-9) shows the inner conflict that the prophet had to endure, in carrying out God's will. His message of warning to Israel was sure to make him unpopular, (even though, tragically, it came true); yet Jeremiah allowed God to 'seduce' him into the task of preaching. The prophet Jeremiah is presented to us as a person of faith and deep conviction, thus able to accept the insults and crosses of life.

The Second Reading (Rom. 12:1-2) states that the highest form of sacrifice is to carry out the Christian vocation in everyday life. It consists in finding out and doing God's holy will. Paul advises his readers to allow their attitudes to be formed by the Gospel so that their lives may be truly pleasing to God.

The Gospel (Mat. 16:21-27) Today's Gospel continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ's disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned

when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christians today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

Bishop Menezes... THE THREAT WHICH ASSISTED SUICIDE POSES a direct threat to the dignity of life and risks placing [all] vulnerable people under pressure to end their life prematurely.

... shares the concerns of a young parishioner with disabilities: "A young man spoke to me after Mass and he said, 'Thank you for mentioning assisted dying. As a disabled young person myself, we feel very vulnerable. It is as though our life is not as valuable as others.' "What really struck me about the sadness of a young person saying this is that perhaps we think of assisted dying as to do with elderly people, but it's not just that. People are already making quality judgements about a potential disability of an unborn child". Human life should be valued at all stages, from conception to natural death.

..."Not so long ago, when I was a parish priest, I was on call for the local hospital, and I was called out three times in one night, twice to the hospital and once to the local hospice. "It was a privilege to be with those people, all of them end-of-life patients, and their families, at very precious moments. I sensed that they would not have wanted a single one of those last moments of life for their loved one taken away." ... contact [your] MP, especially on behalf of those who are vulnerable, to raise these concerns and ask them to oppose this dangerous legislation. "...Do not assume everybody else is doing it, because those who are most vulnerable do not have the voice. Let us be their voice." ... <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote>.

UK'S PALLIATIVE CARE AND SOCIAL CARE CRISIS. ...Dr Karen Groves MBE...founded Queenscourt Hospice in Southport in the late 1980s. advocates for a 'continuity of care' ...

... it's taken many years of work to build relationships with all other local services, and those are really important so that everything's knitted together, and that provides the continuity of care.

... the key ingredients "... the main ones: investment in selection, ongoing training, and real support of skilled clinical and non-clinical staff. ...time and attention to detail for every patient. ...committed volunteers ... financial support and goodwill [for] the building, the growth, and the development of their services ... good working relationships and communication with other services – hospitals, community, care homes – to ensure that no patient is left between services [and] an education service which is there for all professionals, formal and informal carers, and the public, which helps to ensure a good standard of palliative and end-of-life care to be consistent across all settings."

... the challenges? "... [reduced real] government funding [and increased running costs]. ... annual average legacy income [down by 80%]; reduced retail income from hospice shops [and] charitable fundraising ..."

... 'fixing' palliative and social care ... "Some joined-up thinking, good organisation of services, continuity of care, excellent communication and a flow of sufficient finance to support it would allow those who actually have lots of good ideas [to improve things] to begin work, and those in need ... to benefit hugely

SEASON OF CREATION 2026 (1st September – 4th October) – "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4)

In 2015 Pope Francis instituted in the Catholic Church the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" which starts the ecumenical Season of Creation. This takes place each year from 1st September to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October. The Holy Father Pope Leo XIV recently issued a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which falls on the 1st September, centred on Isaiah 2:4, highlighting the connection between warfare and ecological destruction.

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/07/02/250702e.html>

The Holy Father describes the ecological damage from conflict as "a serious violation of our duty to care for creation, as well as a long-term threat to the lives of hundreds of millions of people". He notes that awareness of environmental damage from war has not adequately led to preventive institutions or peaceful conflict resolution and that the prophetic call is seen as "an explicit invitation to prioritise development and sustainability over violence and destruction".

LEO XIV GENERAL AUDIENCE 19 August 2026: Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. III. Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium. 7. Sacred Music": Today we consider the importance of sacred music. Indeed, singing and playing a musical instrument are acts of prayer. Music thus fosters our unity in praising God and opens our hearts to be fashioned by his grace. Far from being merely decorative, therefore, sacred music is a treasure of profound value. It should always be dignified, draw inspiration from Sacred Scripture and reflect the grandeur of the mystery celebrated. Sacred music is also to reflect local cultures, expressing the authentic traditions of peoples, while promoting the universal Church's musical heritage. The Council also emphasised the need for solid liturgical formation and education in sacred music. Dear brothers and sisters, in the liturgy, may we join together in love, and – in the words of Saint Ignatius of Antioch – "with one voice sing to the Father through Jesus Christ."