



The Catholic Parishes of

St. Mary Magdalen's,
Harbour Walk, Seaham, SR7 7DS

St. Cuthbert's
Mill Road, Seaham, SR7 0HW

St. Joseph's
Church Lane, Murton, SR7 9BT



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
3RD MAY 2026

PARISH PRIEST

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T: 0191 581 2368

RETIRED PRIESTS

Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh
Rev. Fr. John Masshedar

PARISH DEACONS

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Rev. Bong Nidea

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary – Brenda Williamson | T: 0191 562 3331

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FACEBOOK

[Facebook.com/SeahamCatholics](https://www.facebook.com/SeahamCatholics)

**SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

St Mary Magdalen's
Carole Robson

St Cuthbert's
Kelly Lamond

St Joseph's
Vicki Bramley

SM SUNDAY MESSAGE

As the festival of the Ascension approaches, Jesus begins to prepare his followers for his own departure from the world. There are two aspects to this teaching. Firstly Jesus speaks of the final purpose, union with the Father, and his preparation of a place for us there. He says that there is a 'room' for each of them, suggesting not that there are plenty of separate cubicles for different sets of people (bishops, babies, monks and maniacs), but that there is no lack of space in heaven. No problem of 'only one wins the prize' in this case. The second aspect is preparation for the future Church on earth, and the almost shocking promise that in the absence of Jesus – but in the strength of his Spirit – his people will do 'even greater works'. Paul teaches that believers 'make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ', for in every age the Church fills up the measure of Christ's sufferings; it is a Church which shares its Master's trials. In the same way in every age the Church must carry on the works of Christ. In John the 'works' of Jesus are the marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, which show who Jesus is. We too are called on to perform marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, works of grace and generosity.



What is the real joy and excitement of heaven? How may we best carry on the 'work' of Christ?

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS | MAY 4TH

On 4 May 1535, at Tyburn in London, there died three Carthusian monks, the first of many martyrs of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, forty-two have been canonized, and a further 242 have been declared Blessed; but the true number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or were tortured or persecuted for their faith cannot now be reckoned. The persecution lasted a hundred and fifty years and left a permanent mark on English culture: to this day Catholics continue to suffer certain minor disabilities under English law. The martyrs celebrated today came from every walk of life. There were rich and poor; married and single; men and women. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith and courage in the face of persecution. From 2001, there are also celebrated on this day the forty martyrs of England and Wales who were canonized on 25 October 1970 and formerly celebrated on that day. They include Saints Cuthbert Mayne, John Houghton, Edmund Campion, and Richard Gwynn, as well as Saints John Roberts and Ambrose Barlow from the Benedictine monastery of St Gregory at Douay (now at Downside Abbey in Somerset),



ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY | MAY 7TH

On 4 May 1535, three Carthusian monks were executed at Tyburn in London, marking the beginning of many martyrs of the English Reformation. Among those persecuted, forty-two have been canonized and 242 declared Blessed, though the true number of victims—those executed, imprisoned, or tortured for their faith—remains unknown. The persecution spanned 150 years and left a lasting impact on English culture, with Catholics still facing some minor legal disadvantages today. The martyrs came from all social backgrounds, including rich and poor, married and single, men and women. They are remembered for their unwavering faith and remarkable courage in the face of severe oppression, serving as enduring examples of religious conviction and resilience.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please ensure all items for the bulletin are with the parish office by 5pm on a Wednesday. Please email bulletin@seaham-catholics.org.uk



POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY



That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Leo PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

Bridget Pounder
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Connor Drinkwater
at St. Cuthbert's

**Mary Robinson,
Patricia Whelan and DFM**
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

25th April
Anne Marie Cram

23



at St Mary Magdalen's

26th April
Number 110
Price: £50

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Williams who has died. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 12th May at 9:45am followed by Cremation at Sunderland Crematorium. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

WITH THANKS - SECOND COLLECTIONS

Thank you to all who contributed towards last months retiring collections. All amounts received are below:

	St Mary Magdalen's	St Cuthbert's	St. Joseph's
Holy Places	£39.50	£57.00	£187.32
Columbian Mission	£384.05	£412.60	£356.50
Northern Brethren Fund	£57.85	£39.50	£30.00
Little Sister	£182.90	£302.10	£370.60

MAY - THE MONTH OF MARY

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary, came about in the 13th century. In her unique way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our saviour Jesus Christ. The link between Mary and the month of May became popular among the members of the Jesuit Order and, by 1700, it had a firm hold among their students at the Roman College and a short time later it was publicly celebrated in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the rest of the Church. The pious practice of honouring Mary during the month of May has been especially promoted by several Popes characterising it as one of those "other exercises of piety which although not strictly belonging to the Sacred Liturgy, are nevertheless of special import and dignity, and may be considered in a certain way to be an addition to the liturgical cult: they have been approved and praised over and over again by the Apostolic See and by the Bishops" Devotion to Mary is one an important part of the Catholic identity.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on Thursday 14th May. The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates Jesus bodily ascending into heaven 40 days after Easter, marking the end of his earthly ministry and the inauguration of his reign. Celebrated on Thursday of the sixth week of Easter, it is a Holy Day of Obligation. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 13th May at 6:00pm and Mass on Thursday 14th May will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church at 11:00am.

THE AVE MARIA CLUB - BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Please note that the Ave Maria Club will be closed on Monday 4th May due to the May Bank Holiday.

THE COLUMBIAN MISSION APPEAL

The Columbian Missionaries write ... Thank you for the warm welcome and hospitality given to Fr. Kevin McDonagh, when he visited your parish on 12th April to give the annual Mission Appeal for 2026. It was a privilege and a joy for him to share his experience of cross-cultural mission with the parish community and we are very grateful indeed for the generous collection which we received in Cash from Fr. McDonagh on 23rd April 2026. Above all, we are thankful for your prayers and the encouragement they give to Columban missionaries around the world, from Chile to China, from Peru to the Philippines - God bless you. Thank you for the Gift Aid envelopes completed at the appeal. We will claim Gift Aid on these donations and send the Columban magazine 'Far East' to those who requested a free trial subscription. We are grateful also to everyone who has visited our website - www.columbans.co.uk - since the appeal, and to those who have subscribed to our free Newsletter. We hope the stories, articles and reflections they find there will inspire and support them on their faith journey. We look forward to visiting your parish again in the future. In the meantime, please be assured that you will be remembered in the prayers we offer daily for all our benefactors and supporters.

PASTORAL STRATEGY

Bishop Stephen writes ... Thank you to all parishes who have completed and returned their reflections as part of our diocesan pastoral strategy. I, together with others, look forward to reading and praying through your discernments in the Spirit. It is not too late for returns to be made if you are yet to submit. We next move to a second phase as we invite local parishes to discern together in their partnerships, or with others in their neighbouring area. Information and updates will be shared on our website. Please keep this discernment in your prayers as we seek to respond to the Lord's call to worship Him and serve our communities in a flourishing and sustainable manner.

✠ THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES ✠

A = Anniversary | **(LD)** = Lately Deceased | **(DFM)** = Deceased Family Members

	St Mary Magdalen's SEAHAM HARBOUR	St Cuthbert's NEW SEAHAM	St. Joseph's MURTON
Saturday 2nd May <i>St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor</i> THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		4:30pm Mass Annie & Bob Longstaff	
Sunday 3rd May THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am MASS Kathleen M. O'Connor <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Mary Ann Robinson and Patricia Weldon (A) <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Monday 4th May <i>The English Martyrs</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 5th May <i>Weekday in Eastertide</i>	10:00am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>		
Wed 6th May <i>Weekday in Eastertide</i>		9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	10:00am MASS Catherine Finan
Thurs 7th May <i>St. John of Beverley</i>	10:00am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>		
Friday 8th May <i>Weekday in Eastertide</i>			10:00am MASS Jack and Peggy Cram
Saturday 9th May <i>Weekday in Eastertide</i> THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		4:30pm Mass Jack McCabe	
Sunday 10th May THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am MASS Rose Smith <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Ernest, Emma & Francis Miller & Marlon Buckinghamshire <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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