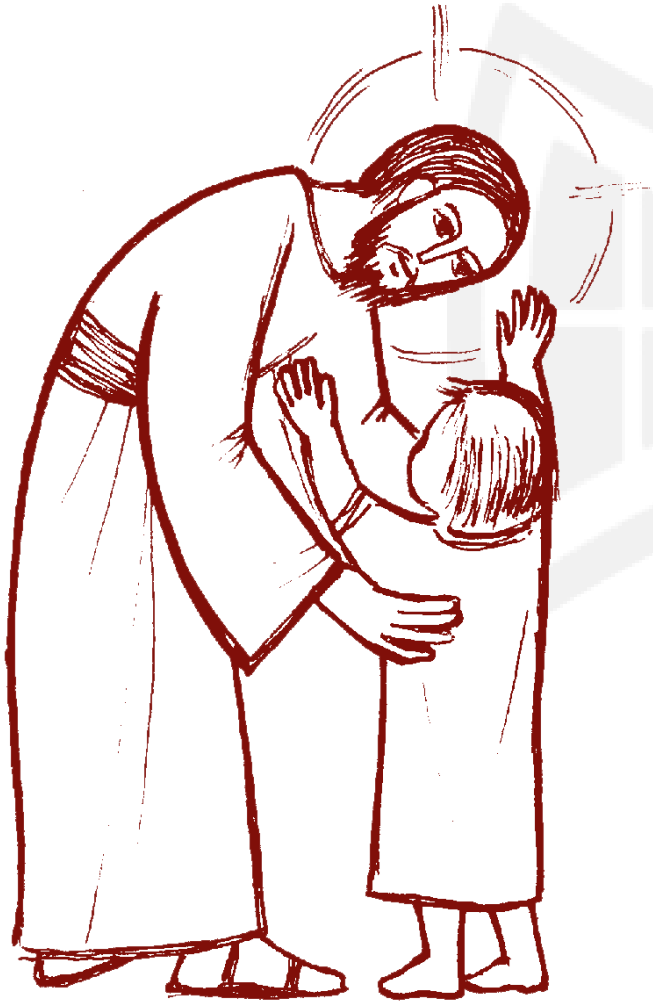




The Catholic Parishes of
St. Mary Magdalen's,
Harbour Walk, Seaham, SR7 7DS

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

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



**THE FOURTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**
**SUNDAY 5TH
JULY 2026**

" THANK YOU, FATHER,
LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, THAT
YOU HAVE HIDDEN THESE THINGS
FROM THE WISE AND
UNDERSTANDING AND
REVEALED THEM TO
LITTLE CHILDREN "

MATTHEW 11

PARISH PRIEST

Rev. Fr. Charles. C. Ejieji
T: 0191 581 2368

RETIRED PRIESTS

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

PARISH DEACONS

Rev. Peter Linsley
Rev. Bong Nidea

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary—Brenda Williamson | T: 0191 562 3331

PARISH WEBSITE

www.seaham-catholics.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE EMAIL

mmm.seaham@diocesehn.org.uk

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

SUNDAY MESSAGE

This much-loved and encouraging passage tells of the intimacy of the relationship between Father and Son in a way that no other passage of the synoptic gospels does. It is reminiscent of those passages in John 5 which unfold the equality of Father and Son: the Son does nothing but what he sees the Father doing; the Father loves the Son so that he entrusts all things to the Son; and the Son gives life just as the Father gives life. Then we read about the gentle invitation of the Son to all who are overburdened. The 'yoke' is often a symbol of the Law of Moses, which could seem burdensome with its many commands, though it was also valued as God's revelation of himself to his own people in love. Christ is not a tyrannical master, but is a sympathetic, gentle and humble leader who shares his life with his followers. The 'yoke' or law of Christ is the interior impulse of the Spirit which we read more about in today's second reading. It cannot be burdensome, since it is a joy to carry this 'yoke'; it is a way of living with Christ and by his Spirit. Martyrs are subjected to physical pains, yet for them joy is a constant feature in the accounts of their martyrdom.



Do you ever feel you can't cope? Do you ask Jesus for help? What does Jesus mean by his 'yoke'? Do you find it comfortable?

ST MARIA GORETTI, VIRGIN, MARTYR | 6TH JULY

Maria Goretti was born into a poor farming family near Corinaldo, Italy, and was the third of seven children. Due to poverty, her family moved near Anzio, where her father worked with the Serenelli family. After her father's death in 1900, Maria helped support her family while becoming known for her kindness, deep faith, and commitment to purity. Alessandro Serenelli, the son of her father's business partner, became obsessed with Maria. After she resisted his advances and escaped an attempted assault, he threatened her into silence. A month later, he arranged to be alone with her and attacked her with a dagger. Maria refused to give in, urging Alessandro to think of his soul. In anger, he stabbed her fourteen times. Despite her severe injuries, Maria survived long enough to receive the Last Sacraments and forgive Alessandro before dying on 6 July 1902 at just eleven years old. Alessandro was sentenced to thirty years in prison. Although initially unrepentant, he later experienced a sincere conversion, influenced by dreams of Maria. After his release, he reconciled with Maria's mother, and together they received Holy Communion on Christmas Day 1937. He later spent the rest of his life in a Capuchin monastery. Maria was beatified in 1927 and canonised in 1950, with her mother attending the ceremony. The passage argues that Maria's significance lies not only in her tragic death but in her unwavering commitment to purity, dignity, and moral integrity. Although attitudes towards virginity have changed, it suggests that values such as self-respect, decency, and remaining faithful to one's principles are timeless. Maria's courage in defending her beliefs, even at the cost of her life, is presented as an enduring example of heroic virtue.



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 JULY



For respect of human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Leo PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

The Ave Maria Club
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Carol Ann Groark
at St. Cuthbert's

James Faill
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

27th June
JJ Ward

24



at St Mary Magdalen's

28th June
No: 258 | Prize £50
Monthly No: 134
Prize £100

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

RENEW OUR PEWS - PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

We warmly invite you to support the refurbishment of pews in St Mary Magdalens. Work as already commenced but it is anticipated there are at least 80 pews in need of attention. These benches have faithfully served generations, but time has taken its toll, and they now require restoration to ensure comfort, safety, and dignity for all who gather here. By contributing to this effort, you will help preserve the beauty and heritage of our place of worship while creating a welcoming space for future generations. Every donation, no matter the size, brings us closer to breathing new life into these cherished fittings and strengthening the sense of community we hold dear. There will be a basket at the back of church for the month of July and all donations greatly received will go towards the work that is being undertaken to complete the restoration which is estimated to take about £3000. Our parish representatives in the finance group will take care of any amount received. Thank you for your generosity and continued support. **Last Sunday we received £113.70 towards the campaign.**

PASTORAL STRATEGY

Thank you for your ongoing participation with the Diocesan Pastoral Strategy. The bishop, after further reflection and listening to advice, has extended the deadline for the returns to 1st August 2026. This recognises the valuable and informed reflections that are taking place and it is better to give more time to this stage rather than rush responses. It is important come September we are able to pull together the discernments from across the Diocese to inform and guide an overall Diocesan strategy. Thank you for your participation.

SUNDAY 12TH JULY

There will be no coffee morning at St Joseph's on Sunday 12th July.

MASS INTENTIONS

We are currently running low for mid-week Mass intentions. The Mass is a special community prayer, we are encouraged to attend Sundays and weekday Masses as much as we can, to start our day with this special prayer and to put in Mass intentions especially on weekdays for family and friends who may be struggling with health challenges, for peace in the world and the peaceful repose of the dead. Masses could also be offered in thanksgiving to God on our anniversaries and birthdays.

ST MARY MAGDALEN'S MINI VINNIES

St Mary Magdalen's Mini Vinnies will be hosting a Coffee Morning after Mass on Tuesday 7th July in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

SEA SUNDAY 2026

Next weekend, Sunday 12th July is Sea Sunday. We are asked to encourage prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris (formerly, the Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. This mandatory second collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. There will be a retiring collection for this cause at all Masses next weekend.

WITH THANKS - SECOND COLLECTIONS

Thank you to all who contributed to our second collection on the day for life. St Joseph's raised £217.60, St Mary Magdalen's raised £86.49 and St Cuthbert's raised £25.00. A big thanks to all who contributed.

✠ 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 4th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS In honour of Josemaria <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS June McHugh	
Sunday 5th July THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Reginald & Marguerite Humpherys <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS In Thanksgiving (Ellen & Eddie) <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Monday 6th July <i>St Maria Goretti, Virgin, Martyr</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 7th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Tim Dannat (for healing)		
Wed 8th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		9:30am MASS Liz McKenna (for strength of the Holy Spirit)	10:00am MASS Ernest and Jenny Burns and DFM
Thurs 9th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Thanksgiving to St Joseph		
Friday 10th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>			10:00am MASS James Faill (A)
Saturday 11th July <i>St Benedict, Abbot</i> THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Thanksgiving <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS George Strong	
Sunday 12th July THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Mary Savage <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Mary & James Haffey and DFM <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

If you wish to receive this bulletin by email please subscribe at
www.seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin