



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 TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 6TH
SEPTEMBER 2026

*"Where two or three are
gathered in my name,
there am I among them"*

MATTHEW 18

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RETIRED PRIESTS

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

PARISH DEACONS

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**SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

St Mary Magdalen's
Carole Robson

St Cuthbert's
Kelly Lamond

St Joseph's
Vicki Bramley

SUNDAY MESSAGE

The Church has had to be selective as we work through the Gospel of Matthew for this year's readings. In this eighteenth chapter of Matthew on relationships within the community it is striking that the Church has chosen this passage to put before us. The first part is all about sorting out disputes and about forgiveness. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every church and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. So here we are given a safe process to do this. Just after today's passage, Jesus underlines his teaching here when he says that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit. Christ also reminds us that he is present always in his community. The same promise is given at the beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and at the end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). Therefore the decisions of the community will be considered binding in the sight of God. It is especially striking that the same pledge (of binding and loosing) is made with the Church here as had earlier been made with Peter himself; Peter on his own exercises the authority of the Church.



How may we best put this process of reconciliation described by Jesus into practice?



ST PETER CLAVER | 9TH SEPTEMBER

He was born in Catalonia and studied at the University of Barcelona. He became a Jesuit; and while he was studying philosophy in Mallorca, the door-keeper of the college, Alfonso Rodríguez, saw that his true vocation was to evangelize the New World, and encouraged him to fulfil that vocation. He arrived in Cartagena, in what is now Colombia, in 1610, and after his ordination six years later he became 'the slave of the Negroes forever', labouring on their behalf for 43 years, attending to both their spiritual and material needs. The slave trade was repeatedly condemned by the Popes; but it was too profitable to be stopped and on the whole the local church hierarchy kept quiet about it, much as they did in North America in the 19th century. He brought fresh food to the slave-ships as they arrived, instructed the slaves and baptized them in the faith, followed their progress and kept track of them even when they were sent to the mines and plantations, defending them as well as he could from oppressive slave-owners. He organized teams of catechists who spoke the many languages spoken by the slaves. He worked in hospitals also, looking after lepers among others, and in prisons. Naturally he made himself unpopular by his work: as his superior said, 'unfortunately for himself he is a Catalan, pig-headed and difficult'. Opposition came from both within the Church and outside it, but there were always exceptions. For instance, while many fashionable ladies refused to enter his city churches because they had been profaned by the presence of the blacks, a few, such as Doña Isabel de Urbina, became his strong and lifelong supporters. At the end of his life he fell ill with a degenerative disease and for four years he was treated neglectfully and brutally by the servant whose task it was to look after him. He did not complain but accepted his sufferings as a penance for his sins.

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 SEPTEMBER



For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Leo PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

Cat Cooke
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Dorothy Martin
at St. Cuthbert's

Clare Marie & Bill Hudson
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

29th August
Monica Hindson

9



at St Mary Magdalen's

30th Aug - 109- £50
Monthly - 313 - £100

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

AD MULTOS ANNOS, FR. CHARLES!

This weekend marks a very special milestone for our parish communities in **Seaham and Murton**, as we celebrate **one full year since Fr. Charles joined us**. Over the past twelve months, Fr. Charles has become an important part of the life of our parishes, accompanying us in faith and serving our communities through the celebration of the Sacraments, his preaching, pastoral care, and the many other ways—both seen and unseen—in which a priest ministers to his people. As we mark his first anniversary with us, we offer Fr. Charles our sincere thanks for his **dedication, ministry and service** to our parish communities. We hope that his first year in Seaham and Murton has been a happy and fulfilling one, and we pray that it will be the first of **many more happy years among us**. This week also gives us another reason to celebrate. A week or so ago, Fr. Charles marked the **thirteenth anniversary of his ordination to the sacred priesthood**. We congratulate him on this important anniversary and give thanks to God for his vocation and for the years of priestly ministry through which he has served Christ and His Church. May the Lord continue to bless Fr. Charles in his priesthood, strengthen him in his ministry, and grant him joy, good health and every grace in the years ahead. **Thank you, Fr. Charles, for all that you do for us, and congratulations on both of these happy anniversaries! Ad Multos Annos!**

IT'S ONE YEAR ALREADY, AND I THANK YOU

It is my one year in Seaham and Murton parishes and I thank you, our dear parishioners for your prayers, support and encouragement. I appreciate all your sacrifices. The work would not have been easy without your help. Thanks for the different ways you have supported me and our parishes. Please keep them up as we look forward to an effective evangelization. We use our individual talents to promote the Church, serve God and our neighbors, for the glory of God and for our salvation. Thank you. – *Fr. Charles*

APPRECIATION TO FAMILIES

I thank parents, grandparents and family members who encourage the younger ones to come to Church and all who put more effort in bringing them. That's the only way they could learn and continue the faith. Please keep on encouraging the younger people to take up important roles in the Church as that would help to keep them closer to the Church and God.

EMPLOYMENT LAW TRAINING

As you know from Bishop Stephen's recent email, the diocese is offering a series of training sessions on employment law and our responsibilities for managing staff and volunteers. The audience for this training is Clergy, Parish Secretaries and anyone who may line manage others (volunteers and/or employees) in the Parish setting. The training session for our deanery will be held on **Thursday 17th September at St Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring**. There will be tea and coffee from 10.30am and the training will run from **11.00am to 1.30pm**. Please note that we are **not** able to provide lunch on this day - sorry!

TWO NEW ALTAR SERVERS AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN'S

We are glad to introduce our two new altar servers, Finlay O'Malley and Marsailidh O'Malley. They are siblings. Thank you very much for your decision, as we also appreciate your family who supported you in taking this bold step. May God bless you all. We still look forward to getting more young people coming up to serve on the altar and do other things in the Church. It will be a bold step in the right direction towards keeping the faith alive and active.

LEPRA APPEAL - THIS WEEKEND

Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life-changing disabilities and even blindness. Many children are unable to attend school and adults are cast out from their communities and forced to live isolated lives away from their family and friends. New cases of leprosy, adult or child, are being found amongst the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world. We appreciate your help to support the treatment of those affected as most of them in some parts of the world could not afford a hospital treatment. There will be a retiring collection at all Masses this weekend for this cause.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Alice Naylor and Joan Robinson who have died. Alice Naylor's Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 16th September at 11:00am at St Joseph's. Joan Robinson's funeral arrangements in due course. **REQUIEScant IN PACE.**

WITH THANKS

The family of Mary Faill would like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection at her funeral. £350 will be donated to the SVP.

EDUCATION SUNDAY 2026

Education Sunday falls on the second Sunday of September (13 September, in 2026) just as the new academic year starts and is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 178 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead. There will be a retiring collection at all Masses on the weekend of 12th/13th September.

✠ 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 5th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<i>Mass and Adoration cancelled this morning</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS John and June Smith	
Sunday 6th Sept THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Sheila and son David Moreton <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Lydia Gorman <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Monday 7th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 8th Sept <i>Birthday of the BVM</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Private Intention		
Wed 9th Sept <i>St Peter Claver</i>		9:30am MASS Maureen & Thomas McGann	10:00am MASS In thanksgiving for our retired Priest's
Thurs 10th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Souls in Purgatory		
Friday 11th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>			10:00am MASS Mary Fail & Wynn Maynard
Saturday 12th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration and Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Souls in Purgatory <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Ann Patricia Wallis	
Sunday 13th Sept THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Joan Robinson <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS God's Mercy & Protection <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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