



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  
7TH SEPTEMBER 2025



“ THIS MAN BEGAN TO BUILD BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO FINISH ”

LUKE 14

**PARISH PRIEST**

Rev. Fr. Charles C. Ejieji

T: 0191 581 2368

**PARISH DEACON'S**

Rev. Peter Linsley

Rev. Bong Nidea

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**PARISH EMAIL**

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**RETIRED PRIEST'S**

Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh

Rev. Fr. John Masshedar

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**FACEBOOK**

@SeahamCatholics

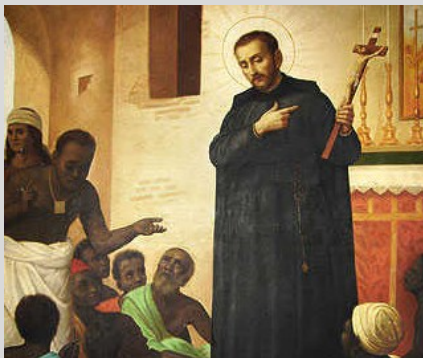
# SUNDAY MESSAGE



## A REFLECTION ON THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus does not pull his punches, and here delivers a series of devastating body-blows to anyone who is looking for easy discipleship. All through this journey which culminates in Jesus' own death at Jerusalem the cost of discipleship has been a recurrent theme: 'Let the dead bury their dead' (13th Sunday), the Parable of the Rich Fool (18th Sunday), 'From one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded' (19th Sunday), 'Father against son, son against father' (20th Sunday), and now 'Hate father and mother' and 'Give up all your possessions'. A certain amount of the vigour of these demands may be attributed to a Semitic (Hebrew/Aramaic) mode of expression (they would often use superlatives and rarely use comparatives), but there is no doubt about the absolute demands made on the disciple. When Jesus made these demands he knew what lay ahead of him, and was only asking his disciples to follow his own course. We must count the cost before beginning to build the tower. Most of us have, of course, already started to build the tower by responding to Jesus' call. There is no turning back from the plough (13th Sunday); only pray for a courage and loyalty which exceed our own powers.

**Why does Jesus use such fierce language? What is the hardest thing about trying to be a disciple of Christ?**



### ST PETER CLAVER | 9TH SEPTEMBER

Born in Catalonia, he became a Jesuit and, encouraged by Alfonso Rodríguez, went to Cartagena in 1610. Ordained in 1616, he served enslaved Africans for 43 years, providing food, spiritual care, and defending them from abuse. He organized multilingual catechists, worked in hospitals and prisons, and faced strong opposition for his efforts, though some, like Doña Isabel de Urbina, supported him. In later years, stricken by a degenerative disease, he endured neglect and mistreatment from his caretaker without complaint, accepting his suffering as penance.



### ST JOHN CHYSOSTOM | 13TH SEPTEMBER

He was born in Antioch. After a thorough education, he took up the ascetic life. He was ordained to the priesthood, and became a fruitful and effective preacher. He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople in 397, and was energetic in reforming the ways of the clergy and the laity alike. He incurred the displeasure of the Emperor and was twice forced into exile. When the second exile, to Armenia, had lasted three years, it was decided that he should be sent still further away, but he died on the journey, worn out by his hardships. His sermons and writings did much to explain the Catholic faith and to encourage the living of the Christian life: his eloquence earned him the surname "Chrysostom" (the Greek for "golden mouth").



# ✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

## News from St Mary Magdalen's ...

### COFFEE MORNING

A reminder that we have a coffee morning after Mass every Sunday! All are most welcome to attend!

## News from St Cuthbert's ...

### WELCOME BACK

We were delighted to welcome back our school children this week! There are ongoing gasworks on Mill Road, meaning possible parking problems! Please, where possible, park further away when dropping children off at school and car share wherever if you can! The gates will opening from 8:30am until these works are clear!

## News from St Joseph's ...

### AFTERNOON TEA - WITH THANKS

A huge thanks to all who attended the afternoon tea at St. Joseph's on 26th August. A great time was had by all with money raised for parish funds.

## General News ...

### OUR NEW PARISH PARTNERSHIP

This weekend, **6th/7th September**, marks the beginning of the parish changes announced back in July. We extend a heartfelt farewell to Fr. Marc and our dear friends at **St. Michael's, Houghton**, as they begin a new chapter with the **Sunderland Partnership**. Their presence and friendship will be greatly missed, and we wish them every blessing on the road ahead. As part of the new structure, **Fr Charles Ejieji** will oversee the parishes of **St Mary Magdalen's** and **St Cuthbert's in Seaham**. We are especially pleased to welcome **St. Joseph's, Murton**, into this growing community. Since Murton falls within the Seaham postcode, it feels only right to bring our parishes together under this new partnership. We're also delighted to share that **Fr Frank McCullagh**, retired and in residence at Murton, will be supporting Fr Charles by assisting with Masses, should Fr Charles need him. We thank them for their dedication and wish them well. To all clergy and parishioners experiencing change this weekend, we send our prayers and best wishes. A huge welcome to Fr. Charles, please bare with him while he settles into his new position. May this new partnership bring fresh energy and renewed faith to our community!

### MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

There are new Mass intention envelopes available at the back of Church in each parish. Please use these for all Mass intention requests going forward and tick which Church you wish to have a Mass celebrated in. Envelopes can be put in the parish collections, through a presbytery letterbox or handed to a Priest or Deacon in any parish.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Our weekday Mass schedule is overleaf, with next week's Masses and Intentions. Please bare with us while we settle into the new situation. This schedule will continue for all of September, with potential changes in October.

### BULLETIN, WEBSITE & EMAIL ADDRESS

Our bulletin, website and email address have had a make-over! Everything is now in one place with all details on the front cover of this publication! Our bulletin will be produced in this format weekly and distributed around our parishes. Our website has also had a make over, matching our bulletin format. It can be found at [www.seaham-catholics.org.uk](http://www.seaham-catholics.org.uk). Fr. Marc has taken his parish page with him, so we also have a new Facebook page which can be found by searching 'Seaham Catholics'. Fr Charles can be contacted on 0191 581 2368. The parish office number (located at St. Joseph's) is 0191 562 3331. Please be aware this is a message taking service only for the time being. If your message is urgent please email Fr. Charles at [contact@seaham-catholics.org.uk](mailto:contact@seaham-catholics.org.uk)

### SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE BULLETIN

Previous records of those who have signed up to receive the bulletin digitally at St Mary Magdalen's and St. Cuthbert's have unfortunately been deleted, following Houghton's departure from the Seaham Parishes. If you wish to receive the bulletin digitally please sign up at [seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin](http://seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin). Those who have signed up at St. Joseph's need not re-submit your request, those records have been retained.

### NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend we celebrate the **The Feast of the Holy Cross**, or Feast of the Cross. The Feast day commemorates the cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus. In the Christian liturgical calendar, there are several different celebrations which honour and celebrate the cross used in the crucifixion. Unlike Good Friday, which is dedicated to the passion of Christ and the crucifixion, these feast days celebrate the Cross itself, as the sign of salvation.

### BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Please pray for the Blessed Carlo Acutis, who is to be canonised by Pope Leo this weekend. Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the first Millennial Saint to be canonised. He will be canonised alongside Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Carlo was just 15 when he died. But in his short life he was renowned for his charity work and his constant pursuit of holiness.

### EDUCATION SUNDAY

Next weekend, **Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th September** is a special day of prayer for **Catholic Education**. There will be a second collection at all Masses next weekend for this cause. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools in England and Wales, educating over 850,000 pupils. Your support in this collection is very much appreciated.



## SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE  
THAT BURNS AT THE  
SANCTUARY IS FOR

**Fr. Dermott Donnelly**  
*at St. Mary Magdalen's*

**James & Veronica Smith**  
*at St. Cuthbert's*

**Isabel & Andrew Welsh**  
*at St. Joseph's*

## BONUS BALL WINNER

*at St Joseph's*

23rd August  
Stephen Miller

05

30th August  
Elizabeth Vickers

16



**POPE LEO XIV'S**  
**PRAYER INTENTION**  
**FOR SEPTEMBER**



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATION

Let us pray that, inspired by  
Saint Francis, we might  
experience our  
interdependence with all  
creatures who are loved by  
God and worthy of love and  
respect.

*Leo PP. XIV*

# ✠ THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES ✠

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

	St Mary Magdalen's SEAHAM	St Cuthbert's SEAHAM	St. Joseph's MURTON
<b>Saturday 6th Sept</b> <b>VIGIL</b> <i>Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>10:30 - 11:00am</b> <i>Adoration &amp; Benediction</i>	<b>4:30pm MASS</b> Tommy McCabe	
<b>Sunday 7th Sept</b> <i>Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9:30am MASS</b> Bill South  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		<b>10:30 - 10:50am</b> <i>Confessions</i>  <b>11:00am MASS</b> David Bramley  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
<b>Mon 8th Sept</b> <i>The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		<b>8:45 - 9:15am</b> <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>  <b>9:30am MASS</b> Gerard Feaney	
<b>Tues 9th Sept</b> <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time Or St. Peter Claver</i>	<b>9:40am</b> <i>Holy Rosary</i>  <b>10:00am MASS</b> Gerard Feaney		
<b>Wed 10th Sept</b> <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		<b>9:30am</b> <i>Service of the Word &amp; Holy Communion</i>	<b>10:00am MASS</b> Lynette Rooke
<b>Thurs 11th Sept</b> <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9:40am</b> <i>Holy Rosary</i>  <b>10:00am MASS</b> Charles & Annie McGann		
<b>Friday 12th Sept</b> <i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i>			<b>10:00am MASS</b> Bill Hudson
<b>Saturday 13th Sept</b> <b>VIGIL</b> <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	<b>10:30 - 11:00am</b> <i>Adoration &amp; Benediction</i>	<b>4:00 - 4:20pm</b> <i>Confessions</i>  <b>4:30pm MASS</b> John Smith	
<b>Sunday 14th Sept</b> <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	<b>9:30am MASS</b> Bernard Robson  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		<b>11:00am MASS</b> Cath. Charles & Elizabeth Honor  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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[www.seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin](http://www.seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin)