



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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7TH DECEMBER 2025



"HE WILL BAPTISE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE"

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 EMAIL

mmm.seaham@diocesehn.org.uk

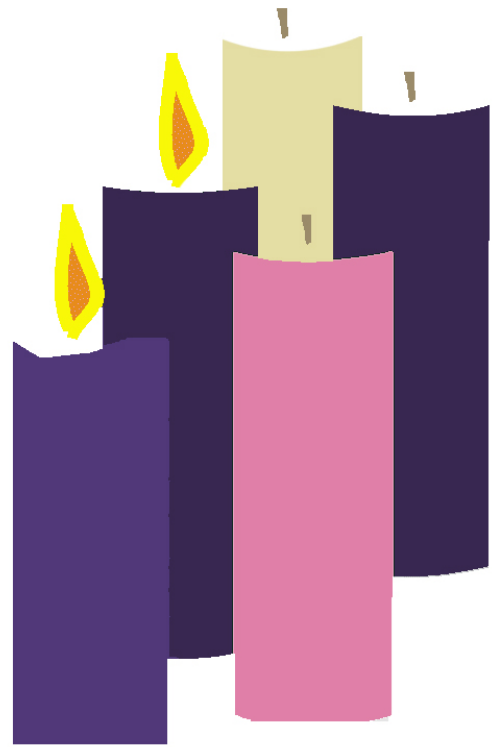
FACEBOOK

@SeahamCatholics

SUNDAY MESSAGE

'Repentance' seems an unattractive word. It conjures up images of morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek the concept of 'repentance' is about a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on his listeners to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet whom Jewish tradition taught was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord. John proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So John makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not at this point proclaiming this Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our own scale of values.

**Is my scale of values compatible with those of the Kingship of God?
How far do they coincide?**



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION | 8TH DECEMBER

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that the Virgin Mary was conceived without *original sin*, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered "Yes" to the request, conveyed by the Angel Gabriel, that she should consent to be the mother of the incarnate God. Because it is so old, this is one of the Marian doctrines that Islam shares with the Catholic Church, though of course the theological details are very different. 'in a famous *Hadith* attributed to the Prophet, it is affirmed that: "Every child is touched by the devil as soon as he is born and this contact makes him cry. Excepted are Mary and her Son". From this *Hadith* and from verses 35-37 of Sura III, Moslem commentators have deduced and affirmed the principle of Mary's original purity.' (Giancarlo Finazzo. *L'Osservatore Romano*, 13 April 1978). The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was almost universally believed over the centuries but was only formally defined as a doctrine of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE | 12TH DECEMBER

The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near Mexico City, is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in North America. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian convert, Juan Diego, and left with him a picture of herself impressed upon his cloak. Devotion to Mary under this title has continually increased, and today she is the Patroness of the Americas.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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



POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER



For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

TBC
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Ward & Duffy Families
at St. Cuthbert's

**Elizabeth and
Brian Turnbull & DFM**
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

29th November
Leila

46

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Please find our Mass schedule from the Fourth Sunday of Advent up to Sunday 28th December (Feast of the Holy Family):

Sat	20th Dec	St. Cuthbert's	4:30pm	Vigil The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun	21st Dec	St Mary Magdalen's	9:30am	The Fourth Sunday of Advent
		St Joseph's	11:00am	The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tues	23rd Dec	St Mary Magdalen's	10:00am	Weekday in Advent
Weds	24th Dec	St Joseph's	4:00pm	Vigil The Nativity of the Lord
		St Cuthbert's	5:30pm	Vigil The Nativity of the Lord
		St Mary Magdalen's	7:00pm	Vigil The Nativity of the Lord
Thurs	25th Dec	St Cuthbert's	8:00am	The Nativity of the Lord
		St Mary Magdalen's	9:30am	The Nativity of the Lord
Fri	26th Dec	St Joseph's	10:00am	Boxing Day The Feast of St. Stephen
Sat	27th Dec	St Cuthbert's	4:30pm	Vigil The Holy Family
Sun	28th Dec	St Mary Magdalen's	9:30am	The Holy Family
		St Joseph's	11:00am	The Holy Family

WITH THANKS

The following people have accepted to serve the Parish in different capacities. We thank them and pray that God will grant them the Graces they need. We also thank parishioners who have served in similar capacities for their dedication, especially for their willingness to collaborate with the new people. May God bless you all. *They are:*

Brenda Williamson	Parish Secretary
David Kimmitt	Media/Graphics/Property
Patricia Brown	Joining the Sacristans at St. Mary Magdalen's
Peter Thompson	Health and safety representative for St. Mary Magdalen's
Bernadette Mitchell	Joining the Sacristans at St. Cuthbert's
Charlotte Bagley	Gift Aid / St. Mary Magdalen's Parish Hall
Stephen Donnelly	Health and Safety representative for St. Cuthbert's
Stephen Miller	Health and safety representative for St. Joseph's
Michael Duffy	Parish Buildings

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Laura Bell	Head of Finance
Denis Hogan	Representative St. Mary Magdalen's
Susan Wilshaw	Representative St. Mary Magdalen's
June Howarth	Representative St. Cuthbert's
Barbara Weetman	Representative St. Cuthbert's
Sarah Smith	Representative St. Joseph's
Emma Hopper	Representative St. Joseph's

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Symonds who has died. Her Funeral Service will be celebrated at St. Mary Magdalen's on Thursday 11th December at 11:30am. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

MISSIO BOXES

For those who have Missio Boxes, at St Cuthbert's please give your money directly to Teresa Watson or leave it in the Garden Room, where we can transfer it into the safe. At St Joseph's please give to Brenda Williamson or leave clearly marked at the back of Church.

FOOD BANK AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

At this time of the year, many people are having to make the choice between eating and heating. Food banks are struggling to cope with the demand. If, as we come to weekend Mass, could we please bring one item for those struggling. Imagine the difference we might make.

FUNDRAISING AT ST CUTHBERT'S

There will be Christmas raffles to raise money for Parish funds. Tickets will be sold at St. Cuthbert's church before and after Mass for the next three weeks.

THE AVE MARIA CLUB

The Ave Maria club is open Monday's 1-3pm in St Mary Magdalen's Parish Hall. It is open to all of our parishes. Come and join us for home-made food and drinks, bingo etc.

ST JOSEPH'S SPIRIT DRAW

There is a list available at the back of church at St. Joseph's for the Christmas spirit draw and a box for hamper donations.

✠ 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 6th Dec <i>St Nicholas, Bishop</i> THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS The Foreman & Gallagher Families <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Ernie Jones	
Sunday 7th Dec THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 	9:30am MASS Michael (Paddy) Mullan <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am <i>Confessions</i> 11:00am MASS Teresa & John Garrigan & Hilda Fraser <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Mon 8th Dec <i>The Immaculate Conception</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tues 9th Dec <i>St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS The Foreman and Gallagher Families		
Wed 10th Dec <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>		9:30am MASS The Jackson Family	10:00am MASS Catherine Finan
Thurs 11th Dec <i>St Damasus I, Pope</i>	9:40am - Holy Rosary 10:00am MASS Lawson & Bagley Families 11:30am FUNERAL SERVICE Eileen Symonds		
Friday 12th Dec <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>			10:00am MASS Isabelle Welsh (A)
Saturday 13th Dec <i>St Lucy, Virgin</i> THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Friends of the Sundeland Seamans Mission <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm - <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Dr. Zakariya Wagar-Uddin	
Sunday 14th Dec THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 	9:30am MASS The People of the Parish <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am - Confessions 11:00am MASS 'Charles and Ann Carmichael & DFM <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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