



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 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
8TH MARCH 2026



"THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM WILL BECOME IN HIM
A SPRING OF WATER WELLING UP TO ETERNAL LIFE"

JOHN 4

PARISH PRIEST

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Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh

Rev. Fr. John Masshedar

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FACEBOOK

@SeahamCatholics

SM SUNDAY MESSAGE

In this lively dialogue Jesus almost seems to be teasing the Samaritan woman, deliberately leading her into misunderstanding about what he means by living water or about the conditions of worship. Nothing daunted, she gives as good as she gets, replying with a cheeky series of sarcastic questions, gradually edging nearer to the truth: an open-minded Jew – greater than our father Jacob – a prophet – and finally acknowledging him as the Messiah. With its serious message it is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people as they are, and of his openness with women. On these last three Sundays of Lent before Palm Sunday in Cycle A, the Church lays before us the three great symbols of the baptisms which will be celebrated at Easter. This concerns not only those who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil, but all those who are invited to renew our baptismal promise and commitment at Easter. By so doing we enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink (the teaching given to the Samaritan woman), into the light which enlightens the blind (the Cure of the Man Born Blind) and true life (the Raising of Lazarus).



What does Jesus really mean by 'living water'?
What is the real life that God gives us?



ST FRANCES OF ROME | OPT MEMORIAL | 9TH MAR

She was born in Rome in 1384 and was married at the age of 13. Although she had wanted to be a nun, she was happily married for 40 years and had three sons. She distributed gifts to the poor and ministered to the sick. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her obedience and patience in adversity (including her husband's banishment, the death of two of her sons from plague, and the loss of all her property). She was a mystic and contemplative, part of the great flourishing of mysticism in that period, and after her husband's death she retired to a convent she had founded, where she died on 9 March 1440.

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 MARCH



For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Leone PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

Kitty & Ernie Dickens
at St. Mary Magdalen's

George Brown
at St. Cuthbert's

Rest of the souls of Eby's dad, Cyprian and his sisters, Tina and Mercy
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

28th February
 Anne Marie Cram

23



at St Mary Magdalen's

22nd Feb - 216
 Monthly - 220
 1st March - 214

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

STATIONS OF THE CROSS THROUGHOUT LENT

During Lent, to support you in keeping your Lenten promises, we will be offering the Stations of the Cross at several times across our parishes: on Friday mornings after Mass at St. Joseph's, Murton; on Friday afternoons at 2:30pm at St. Mary Magdalen's; and on Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm at St. Cuthbert's. Lent is not only a time for fasting and abstinence, but also an opportunity to make a little extra time for the Lord, and these moments of prayerful reflection can help us walk more closely with Him during this sacred season

WITH THANKS

Grateful thanks from St Cuthbert's SVP for a donation of £229.31, in memory of Theresa Hill

AMENDMENT TO THE CRIME AND POLICING BILL

The House of Lords is currently debating an extreme amendment to the Government's Crime and Policing Bill, which would allow women to self-induce their own abortions for any reason, and at any gestation. The last chance to remove this amendment will be at Report stage, expected on the 11th or 17th March. Please act now to stop this barbaric proposal. Find out more and use SPUC's tool to write to members of the House of Lords by going to <https://supc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/>

ST. MARY MAGDALEN'S PARISH KEYS

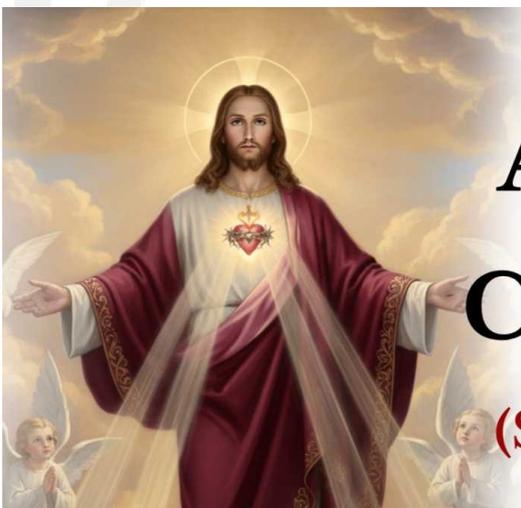
We are required to hold a key register. Could anyone holding keys for St. Mary Magdalen's Church or Parish Hall inform Carole Robson either at Church or on 07383825994. Thank you

DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS 2026

The Chrism Mass for this year at the diocese will be on Wednesday 1st April at St. Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle. It would be great if you could attend to represent our Parishes. Please mark it in your diary if you would like to attend.

ANIMA CHRISTI

All through lent, the "O Sacrament Most Holy" that we say after communion will be replaced with "Anima Christi".



ANIMA CHRISTI (Soul of Christ)

Anima Christi

*Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from Christ's side, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
From the malicious enemy defend me
At the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That with Thy saints and Thy angels
I may praise Thee, forever and ever
Amen.*

✠ 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 7th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Fr John Clark's Intentions <i>Confessions after Mass</i> | 4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Gary Brunning | |
| Sunday 8th March THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 9:30am MASS Margaret Williams <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i> | 3:00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i> | 10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS John Miller & Shirley Stones <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i> |
| Mon 9th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> <i>or Optional Memorial of St Frances of Rome, Religious</i> | | 8:45am <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i> | |
| Tues 10th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> | 9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Jenny Cameron | | |
| Wed 11th March <i>Optional: St. Casimir</i> | | 9:30am MASS Sheila and David Moreton | 10:00am MASS Mary Parker (LD) |
| Thurs 12th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> | 9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Jack and Theresa Hill | | |
| Friday 13th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> | 2:30pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i> | | 10:00am MASS Edith and Bob Lavery 10:30am <i>Stations of the Cross</i> |
| Saturday 14th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Darren Martin <i>Confessions after Mass</i> | 4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Alex John Liddle | |
| Sunday 15th March THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 9:30am MASS Margaret McVeigh <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i> | 3:00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i> | 10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Bobby Richardson (A) <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i> |

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