



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 FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 12TH
JULY 2026

" A SOWER WENT
OUT TO SOW "

MATTHEW 13

PARISH PRIEST

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

RETIRED PRIESTS

Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh
Rev. Fr. John Massheder

PARISH DEACONS

Rev. Peter Linsley
Rev. Bong Nidea

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary—Brenda Williamson | T: 0191 562 3331

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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

Like any good teacher, Jesus uses pictures – or parables. Ever heard the one about the elephant and the wasp? Or electricity like a toy train going round a room? Anyway, for the next three weeks we have some of these pictures, to show us what Jesus is trying to do. This first one is rather sad. Whatever the sower does seems to fail: seed pecked up by birds, scorched by the sun, choked by thistles. What are my pecking birds, my scorching sun, my choking thistles which annihilate the seed Jesus sows in me? It's probably different for every one of us. But some, just a little, of the seed bears a fantastic harvest. There must be something I can show to the Lord with pride and gratitude: 'Look, this is the seed you gave me; it has grown, developed, and here is your harvest.' Jesus, too, reflected on his mission to establish his Father's sovereignty on earth. Jesus, too, may well have wondered if he was getting anywhere. It was only when he had failed utterly, alone, deserted and tortured, that his perseverance won the crown. Jesus doesn't want the successful. He wants the failures as his followers – and that is where the harvest lies.



In Jesus' story what is the seed? What prevents the seed reaching its full growth in me? In what way has the seed made me a better person?

ST BONAVENTURE, BISHOP, DOCTOR | 15TH JULY

Bonaventure was born at Bagnoregio in Etruria in about 1218. He became a Franciscan in 1243 and studied philosophy and theology at the University of Paris. He became a famous teacher and philosopher, part of the extraordinary intellectual flowering of the 13th century. He was a friend and colleague of St Thomas Aquinas. At this time the friars were still a new and revolutionary force in the Church, and their radical embracing of poverty and rejection of institutional structures raised suspicion and opposition from many quarters. Bonaventure defended the Franciscan Order and, after he was elected general of the order in 1255, he ruled it with wisdom and prudence. He is regarded as the second founder of the Order. He declined the archbishopric of York in 1265 but was made cardinal bishop of Albano in 1273, dying a year later in 1274 at the Council of Lyons, at which the Greek and Latin churches were (briefly) reconciled. Bonaventure wrote extensively on philosophy and theology, making a permanent mark on intellectual history; but he always insisted that the simple and uneducated could have a clearer knowledge of God than the wise. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V.



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

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

4th July
Ian Bates

47



at St Mary Magdalen's

5th July
Number: 388
Prize: £50

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

Amy & Bill Wilson
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Huitson & Watson Families
at St. Cuthbert's

Peanut Eugene Graham
at St. Joseph's

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

SEA SUNDAY 2026

This weekend, **Saturday 11th / Sunday 12th July** we celebrate **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 this weekend

ST MARY MAGDALEN'S 200+ CLUB ANNUAL DRAW

The annual 200+ Club draw will take place on Sunday 26th July. The rules state that Members must pay 52 weeks to qualify for the yearly draw which takes place on the 52nd week of the 200 Club calendar. Please check with Allan at the back of church to see if you are up to date with your payments. The new draw year begins again on Sunday 2nd August 2026.

FORTNIGHTLY SUMMER BULLETIN

Throughout the summer months, when news can be in short supply and our school children are enjoying their break, we are going to produce a two-week edition of the bulletin, rather than a weekly publication. This will begin next weekend **Saturday 18th / Sunday 19th July**. Please submit your Mass intentions early so we have sufficient to cover the two week period, particularly St Mary Magdalen's which are running particularly low. If there are any amendments to the diary, an announcement will be made at Mass and on the Facebook page. The best way to keep up to date with the news over the summer, particularly if you are going on holiday, is to add your name and email address to the mailing list or 'like' the Facebook page. To sign up online head to seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin. We will resume the weekly edition on Sunday 30th August

ST MARY MAGDALEN'S - 'TEACHING ASSISTANT' VACANCY

St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary school wish to appoint a Teaching Assistant from September 2026. We are seeking a TA who can work with an identified child with additional needs and also a class-based position. The role will require someone who is able to manage behaviour effectively and actively contribute to planning and promote progress, someone who is flexible and adaptable to the demands of the teaching assistant role and has good organisation and communications skills. Candidates must be able to work as part of a team and have excellent written and verbal skills. The successful candidate will be committed to the values and ethos of our Catholic school and will join our team of dedicated, hardworking TA's who all strive for high standards for all of our children. Completed application forms should be submitted by email to office@stmmschool.co.uk by **9am on Monday 14th September 2026**

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. 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 £457.31 towards the campaign.**

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Corrine McQue who has died. Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

WITH THANKS

Thanks to a parishioner from St Joseph's who has donated £100 towards to the pew repairs at St Mary Magdalen's. A second thank you to The Ave Maria Club who have donated £250 to St Joseph's parish.

SUNDAY 12TH JULY

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

UPDATE ON THE DIOCESAN DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Owing to the falling number of priests and the substantial number of churches in our Diocese, a diocesan-wide discernment process is being undertaken to establish where church closures may become part of practical solutions to enable us to fulfil the church's Mission in the future. Issues being considered include: The location of churches, The distance between churches, Local transport systems, especially at weekends, The financial viability of churches, The physical condition of our church buildings, Church attendance figures, Any other factors unique to specific churches. E.g cemeteries, church halls etc. As yet, no conclusions have been reached, as soon as they have, be assured we will communicate them to you. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in making decisions that will ensure that we are able to fulfil our Mission in the future.

✠ 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 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>
Monday 13th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary time or St Henry</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 14th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Camillus of Lellis, Priest</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Mattie, Ted Foreman & Family		
Wed 15th July <i>St Bonaventure, Bp, Doctor</i>		9:30am MASS Fr. Tom Burke	10:00am MASS Pat Harman
Thurs 16th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time or Our Lady of Mount Carmel</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Bill and Amy Wilson		
Friday 17th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>			10:00am MASS Gillian Raffeti
Saturday 18th July <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Peter Alexander & Annie Hassan <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Ann Williams	
Sunday 19th July THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS John Foreman <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Bette Foley (LD) <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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www.seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin