



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

70 *times*
7

THE TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 13TH
SEPTEMBER 2026

“Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.’”

MATTHEW 18

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

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**SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

St Mary Magdalen's
Carole Robson

St Cuthbert's
Kelly Lamond

St Joseph's
Vicki Bramley

SUNDAY MESSAGE

This is a favourite theme of Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus' teaching that forgiveness is the life's-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.' The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord's Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew's parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the 'goodie' and the 'baddie' (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year's tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months' wages of a casual labourer.

Is there anyone you cannot forgive? Do you start the forgiveness-process, or wait for the other party? What is the best way to show forgiveness?

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN



OUR LADY OF SORROWS | 15TH SEPTEMBER

The Church honours **Our Lady of Sorrows** on 15 September, remembering the profound suffering Mary endured as the Mother of Jesus. From Simeon's prophecy that a sword would pierce her soul to her presence at the foot of the Cross, Mary remained faithful to her Son through moments of fear, loss, and grief. Traditionally, we reflect on the **Seven Sorrows of Mary**: the prophecy of Simeon; the flight into Egypt; the loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple; meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary; standing at the foot of the Cross; receiving the body of Jesus after His death; and the burial of Jesus. Mary's sorrows remind us that faith does not mean a life without suffering. Rather, she shows us how to remain close to Christ in the midst of it. Because Mary knew grief so deeply, we can also turn to her when our own hearts are burdened by bereavement, illness, anxiety, family difficulties, or the suffering of those we love.

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us, that in times of suffering we may remain faithful to Christ and find hope in His Cross and Resurrection.

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

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

5th September
JJ Ward

36



at St Mary Magdalen's

6th September
Number 177 - £50

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

Mary & Geoff Savage
at St. Mary Magdalen's

The Martin Family
at St. Cuthbert's

Catherine Burke
at St. Joseph's

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

EDUCATION SUNDAY 2026

We celebrate Education Sunday at all Masses this weekend. Just as the new academic year starts, this 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 this weekend.

HOME MISSION 'ENVANGELII GAUDIUM' SUNDAY 2026

On Sunday 20th September, we will celebrate Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate our faith in these lands, and our shared commitment to communicate the beauty and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Celebrating the Holy Father's first encyclical, the theme for this year is "Magnifica Humanitas" as the heart of mission. We can celebrate together the call the Holy Father has placed before us to live out our authentic humanity which finds its fullness in Christ. The Second Collection on this weekend is to support the work carried out by the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. Through the Mission Directorate, we support our Church in a wide field of service and mission here in England and Wales. Please hold this important work in your prayers and give as generously as you can. Thank you.

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 Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 18th September at 10:00am. The Holy Rosary will be prayed for Joan Robinson in Lamb's Chapel of rest on Thursday 17th September at 6:00pm. **REQUIESCANT IN PACE.**

SCHOOL MASSES

There will be a school Mass in St Cuthbert's Church on Wednesday 16th September at 9:30am and St Joseph's Church on Friday 21st September at 10:00am.

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

The Holy Mass is a special prayer where we gather as a community to raise our hearts and minds to God. Masses could be offered for the living and the dead. We are encouraged to request Mass intentions for recovery of the sick, in thanksgiving to God, for people struggling and enduring natural disaster, for peace in our communities and the world, and for our dead friends and relatives, and various intentions. If you would like to have Holy Mass celebrated for any particular Intention, then please take an envelope from the back of Church and fill in the relevant information. The envelope should be placed in the Sunday collection plate, placed in the Presbytery letterbox or handed to a Priest or Deacon. Please note there is a backlog of Mass Intentions at St. Joseph's with the diary booked up until the end of October. If you want a Mass said quickly please request for it to be said at St. Mary Magdalen's or St. Cuthbert's.

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT

The Annual Mass Count is taken over four weekends monitoring attendance at Mass beginning on the 19th / 20th September.

AUTUMN EDITION OF THE MISSIO MAGAZINE

The Autumn edition of the Missio magazine is available for collection at the back of Church this weekend. Please help yourself.

THE LEpra APPEAL

A huge thank you to those who contributed towards the retiring collection last weekend for LEpra. St. Mary Magdalen's raised £158.70, St Cuthbert's raised £179.70 and St. Joseph's raised £241.42.

INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY OF FAITH OR RCIA

I warmly invite you to this year's Journey of Faith. Would you like to know more about the Catholic faith? Do your children attend a Catholic school and you would like to support them? Could you do with a "booster" to improve your faith life? If the answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, then you are welcome to come to the Journey of Faith programme which begins 15th October in St Mary Magdalen's, Seaham. **This is for anyone interested from all three parishes.** At the initial meeting at 6.30pm on Oct 15th, we will explain what is involved and answer any questions you may have, including choosing a time suitable to the majority. Then, we will begin in earnest on 22nd Oct. We would welcome particularly those who have made the Faith Journey in the last few years to share their experiences and maybe fill in the gaps! We would also welcome anyone who would like to be part of the team going forwards – to accompany and support candidates and to make tea! This is a real, practical way in which you can further the mission of the church. Please have a word with Fr Charles or Sr Michael.

✠ 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 12th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE TWENTY FOURTH 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 FOURTH 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>
Monday 14th Sept <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 15th Sept <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Joseph Suddes		
Wed 16th Sept <i>St Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i>		9:30am MASS Connor Drinkwater	10:00am MASS Mary Faill 11:00am FUNERAL SERVICE Alice Naylor
Thurs 17th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Joan & Paul Robinson and DFM		
Friday 18th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>			10:00am REQUIEM MASS Joan Robinson
Saturday 19th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE TWENTY FIFTH 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 For recovery (CP)	
Sunday 20th Sept THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS The Sick and Housebound <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Joan Robinson (LD) <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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