



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 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025



" GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON "

JOHN 3

PARISH PRIEST

Rev. Fr. Charles. C. Ejieji

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RETIRED PRIEST'S

Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh

Rev. Fr. John Masshedar

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SUNDAY MESSAGE



A REFLECTION ON THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

In this gospel-reading we are listening-in to a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to Jesus by night (presumably because he did not want his colleagues to know. Do you mind your colleagues knowing that you are a Christian?). Jesus is talking about an incident during the Exodus journey described in our first reading today, when the Israelites were struck by a plague of snakes. Moses hoisted a bronze snake on a pole as a recovery-totem. It sounds superstitious, but presumably to depend on this “totem” was an expression of trust in God. Jesus now says that this snake is to be seen as a promise of the salvation to be won by trusting in his Cross. The Cross remains our sign of victory. To wear it and welcome it is, in our increasingly material world, a statement of where our heart and our confidence lies. However, the Cross is not complete in itself. Some people find it ‘morbid’ or ‘morose’, but to Christians it contains also the victory and reassurance of the Resurrection. The Cross makes sense not by the crumpled figure on the wood, but by God’s acceptance of that obedience. The triumph of the resurrection is too glorious to be represented by anything visible.

What place do representations of Christ raised on the cross have in your own life and home?



OUR LADY OF SORROWS | 15TH SEPTEMBER

The devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows flourished in the Middle Ages, and the hymn *Stabat Mater* was composed for it. Although it is officially celebrated today, the day after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, popular devotion in many parts of the Mediterranean celebrates it with processions on the Friday before Holy Week.



ST ROBERT BELLARMINE | 17TH SEPTEMBER

He was born in Montepulciano, in Tuscany, and became a Jesuit. He taught theology in Rome, and was active in disputation against the Protestants, where his effectiveness was increased by his charity and moderation. He was a moderating influence in the Galileo affair, and gave Galileo much friendly advice. In due course he was nominated a cardinal and archbishop of Capua; but it is for his writings that he is chiefly known. He did not only write controversial works: he also wrote two catechisms and some devotional commentaries on the Psalms and on the Seven Last Words.



ST JANUARIUS | 19TH SEPTEMBER

Nothing is really known about St Januarius. The tradition is that he was a bishop of Benevento who was martyred at Puteoli in the early fourth century, but no historical records exist. His body lies in Naples, where his cult is taken very seriously indeed.

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

FR. CHARLES WRITES ...

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for the warm welcome you have extended to me as your new parish priest. Your kindness, generosity and support mean the world to me. I feel blessed to part of this community and look forward to working together to build a stronger, more loving parish family with the help of God. Thank you for making me feel at home. Please keep me in your prayers as I will always pray for you, that our thoughts and actions be guided by the Holy Spirit. God bless you all. *Fr Charles*

FR. MARC WRITES ...

I would like to thank all the parishioners of St Mary Magdalen's and St Cuthbert's for the very generous leaving collection that you had for me. I really appreciate it. Can I also say thank you for all your kind words, cards and most especially, your prayers as I take up my new appointment. Seaham is a very special place, with very special people, and I will never forget your kindness and support in my short five years with you. Special thanks to our lovely schools with dedicated staff. To you all; you are in my daily prayers, and in my heart, and I ask you keep me in your prayers. With love for you all. *Fr Marc*.

THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

This weekend we celebrate **The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, or Feast of the Cross. The Feast 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.

FR. CHARLES' INDUCTION MASS

Fr Charles will be formally inducted as Parish Priest by the Dean, on behalf of the Bishop. The Induction Mass will take place on Friday 3rd October at St. Mary Magdalen's church at 6:00pm. We are all invited to be a part of this special Mass, as our new Priest Fr. Charles C. Ejieji will be officially installed as Parish Priest.

EDUCATION SUNDAY

Today is **Education Sunday**. Education Sunday falls just as the new academic year starts and is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 177 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. This year's theme for Education Sunday is drawn from its Gospel reading of John 3:13-17: *The Son of Man must be lifted up*. There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend, for this cause.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

There is a Macmillan coffee morning after Mass at St. Mary Magdalen's on Sunday 28th September, in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend!

INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

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 16th October in St Mary Magdalen's, Seaham. This is for anyone interested from all three parishes. At the initial meeting at 6.30pm on October 16th, 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 23rd October. 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! Please have a word with Fr Charles or Sr Michael as soon as possible.

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS

The diocese have allocated the Parish a new email address, which is now seaham@diocesehn.org.uk. If you wish to speak to get a message to Fr. Charles, please use this email.

NEWS FOR THE BULLETIN

If you have any news to share with the parish and wish for it to be published in the bulletin, please email any notices to bulletin@seaham-catholics.org.uk before Wednesday at 5:00pm

MISSIO RED BOXES

St. Joseph's Missio boxes are due to be emptied. Could you please return any money collected to Brenda at St. Joseph's.

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.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY

Next weekend we celebrate *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* (formerly Home Mission Sunday). There is a second collection for this cause next weekend.



SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

Fr. Tom Burke
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Roy & Marjorie Weetman
at St. Cuthbert's

Arthur Parker
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

6th September
Stephen Miller

05



**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 HARBOUR	St Cuthbert's NEW SEAHAM	St. Joseph's MURTON
Saturday 13th Sept VIGIL <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	10:30 - 11:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm MASS John Smith	
Sunday 14th Sept <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	9:30am MASS Bernard Robson <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		11:00am MASS Catherine, Charles & Elizabeth Honor <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Mon 15th Sept <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>		8:45 - 9:15am <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am MASS Private Intention	
Tues 16th Sept <i>SS Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyr</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS The Intentions of Fr. Marc Lyden-Smith		
Wed 17th Sept <i>St Robert, Bellarmine, Bishop Or St. Hildegard of Bingen</i>		9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	10:00am MASS The Ward and Edwards Families & DFM
Thurs 18th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Mary Taylor		
Friday 19th Sept <i>St Januarius, Bishop, Martyr Or St. Theodore of Tarsus</i>			10:00am MASS Intention of the Priest
Saturday 20th Sept VIGIL <i>The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:30 - 11:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm MASS Connor Drinkwater	
Sunday 21st Sept <i>The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am MASS Margaret & William Garland <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		11:00am MASS Clare Marie Hudson <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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