



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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
LAETARE SUNDAY
15TH MARCH 2026



"HE WENT AND WASHED AND RECEIVED HIS SIGHT"

JOHN 9

PARISH PRIEST

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RETIRED PRIESTS

Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh

Rev. Fr. John Masshedar

PARISH DEACONS

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FACEBOOK

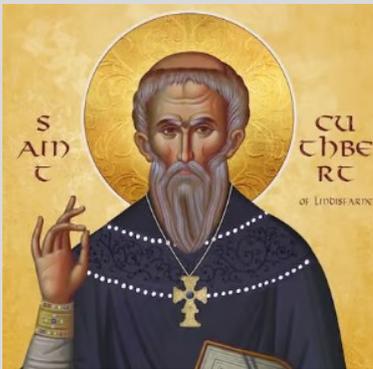
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SM SUNDAY MESSAGE

The second of the three great Johannine readings about water, light and life (which point to the baptisms of Easter) gives us the splendid account of Jesus bringing light to the blind man in the Temple. It is full of Johannine contrasts and irony. The 'Jews' or the Pharisees think they have the light and knowledge, but the more they abuse the man born blind, the clearer their own darkness and ignorance become. The more they try to thrust the blind man away from Jesus, the more they push him into seeking refuge in him. Much of the colouring of the scene comes from the controversies towards the end of the first century, when the Pharisees were the only branch of Judaism to survive after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. The New Testament shows that there was bitter opposition between those Jews who accepted the divine claims for Jesus, and those who rejected them. This is especially clear in the fear of the blind man's parents (recounted in the longer version of Sunday's Gospel) that they would be excluded from the synagogue if they accepted that Jesus' grant of sight was a sign of his divine mission. The doughty and pugnacious man born blind has no such hesitation!



What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world? How can you bring this light of Jesus to other people?



ST CUTHBERT | PATRON OF THE DIOCESE | 20 MAR

According to tradition, he was a shepherd boy. Certainly he became a monk, and later prior, at Melrose. After the Synod of Whitby in 664 he became prior of Lindisfarne and gradually won over the community to Roman ecclesiastical customs. He was zealous in preaching the Gospel but most attracted to living the life of a hermit, and in 676 he left the monastery and lived in solitude on the nearby island of Inner Farne. For the last two years of his life he served as bishop of Lindisfarne, but he returned to his island to die, on 20 March 687. His remains were removed from their resting place at Lindisfarne to escape Viking raiders and were eventually enshrined at Durham Cathedral. Because the anniversary of his death always falls within Lent, his feast is celebrated on the anniversary of the enshrinement of his remains at Durham.

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

The Reah Family
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Ian Campbell
at St. Cuthbert's

Peter Smith
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's
7th March
Bill Atkinson

19



at St Mary Magdalen's
8th March
Number 168
Prize: £50

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

LAETARE SUNDAY

Today we celebrate Laetare Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (incipit) of the traditional Latin entrance verse (Introit) for the Mass of the day. "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from Isaiah 66:10. This is one of the only two days of the liturgical year that the Priest is permitted to wear Rose Coloured vestments.

MOTHERING SUNDAY - 15TH MARCH

Today we celebrate our mothers and thank them in a special way and pray that God will continue to bless them for the good works they do in our families, Parishes and Communities .

MIDWEEK MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES – SPECIAL FEAST DAYS

Please note that there will be some changes to the usual midweek Mass schedule next week due to two important feast days in the local Church's calendar: the Feast of St Joseph and the Feast of St Cuthbert. To celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, the patron saint of St Joseph's Parish, there will be **no Mass at St Joseph's on Friday** as is normally scheduled. Instead, **Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at St Joseph's** in honour of the parish's patronal feast. **Stations of the Cross will also be prayed at St Joseph's on Thursday following Mass this week only**, rather than on Friday. On **Friday 20th**, Mass will be celebrated at **St Cuthbert's Church rather than at St Mary Magdalen's**. This is to mark the Feast of St Cuthbert, who is not only the patron saint of St Cuthbert's Parish but also a patron of our Diocese. We warmly encourage parishioners to join in these celebrations and to support one another by attending Mass at the different churches as we honour these special feast days together.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS THROUGHOUT LENT

A reminder that Stations of the Cross are available at several times across our parishes: on Friday mornings after Mass at St. Joseph's, Murton (**this week on Thursday instead**); on Friday afternoons at 2:30pm at St. Mary Magdalen's; and on Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm at St. Cuthbert's.

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

THE AVE MARIA CLUB

A big thank you to the Ave Maria Club who made a £250 donation to St Joseph's Parish.

THE AVE MARIA CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY

Ave Maria club held their 2nd birthday party on Monday with songs from Philomena & Bob Lowery, & a guest singer Peter Finan, A great afternoon which raised £320 for Motor Neurone Disease in memory of two parishioners, Philip Ferguson & more recently Gary Brunning. with many thanks to our generous members

EASTER EGG DONATIONS FOR THE RAFFLE

St Joseph's Parish are now accepting donations of Easter Eggs for the Easter Raffle. More info available on the notice board.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - WITH THANKS

Thank you for your kind donations towards CAFOD Family Fast Day. We raised £276.00 at St Cuthbert's, £389.00 at St Joseph's and £269.95 at St Mary Magdalen's

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES - THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Please see below the Mass and Service times to take place in our Parishes throughout the Easter Triduum.

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL – HOLY THURSDAY

St. Mary Magdalen's, Seaham	Mass of the Lords' Supper 7:00pm
St. Joseph's, Murton	Mass of the Lords' Supper 7:00pm

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL – GOOD FRIDAY

St. Mary Magdalen's, Seaham	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm
St. Cuthbert's, New Seaham	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm
St. Joseph's, Murton	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL – HOLY SATURDAY

St. Cuthbert's, New Seaham	Easter Vigil in the Holy Night 6:00pm
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SATURDAY 5TH APRIL – EASTER SUNDAY

St. Mary Magdalen's, Seaham	Mass on Easter Day 9:30am
St. Joseph's, Murton	Mass on Easter Day 11:00am

✠ 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 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>
Mon 16th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tues 17th March <i>St Patrick - Bishop, Missionary</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Darren Martin		
Wed 18th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i>		9:30am MASS Sheila and David Moreton	10:00am MASS Special Intention (PB)
Thurs 19th March <i>St Joseph, husband of the BVM</i>			10:00am MASS Julia and Thomas Brann <i>Stations of the Cross after Mass</i>
Friday 20th March <i>St. Cuthbert, Bishop</i>	2:30pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	9:30am MASS Private Intention (JK)	
Saturday 21st March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Peter Weigtmann <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Norry Cowon	
Sunday 22nd March THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9:30am MASS Sheila Miller <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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