



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 ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY
SUNDAY 16TH
AUGUST 2026**

**" FOR BEHOLD,
FROM NOW ON ALL
GENERATIONS WILL
CALL ME BLESSED "**

LUKE 1

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

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

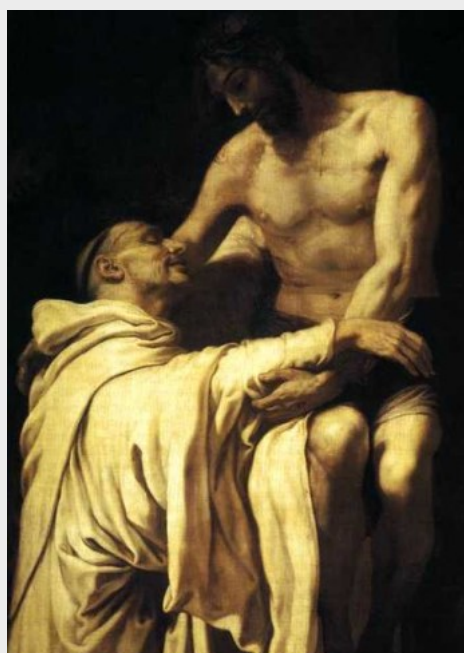
St Joseph's
Vicki Bramley

SUNDAY MESSAGE

The core of this gospel reading is Mary's canticle of thanksgiving for God's gifts to her. It is, however, fitting that, on the Feast of the bodily Assumption of Mary, it should begin with her bodily attention to the bodily needs of her elderly relative. With her own baby on the way, she would have plenty of other priorities, making her long journey a real act of kindness. Her canticle, sung daily in the liturgy of Evening Prayer, sums up God's faithfulness to his promises, focussed on his gifts to this simple peasant girl. It combines a wonderful sense of the holiness of God with warmth of gratitude, showing the thoughts that revolved constantly in Mary's mind. As is fitting in the mouth of a girl whose only knowledge of books was the Bible, Mary's song is a texture of scriptural phrases. We cannot assume that Luke wrote it down at Mary's dictation, for putting words in the mouth of his characters is a feature of Luke the historian; but it must reflect her thinking. If any theme re-sounds again and again throughout the Bible, it is God's care for the poor, for the simple and for those in need. It is this which sets the Hebraeo-Christian tradition apart from the ways of the world.



**What was Mary thinking as she walked to Elizabeth's home and back again?
How may we in our daily lives show gratitude and give praise to God?**



ST BERNARD, ABBOT | 20TH AUGUST

He was born near Dijon, in France, in 1090, of a noble family. In 1112 he joined the new monastery at Cîteaux. This had been founded fourteen years before, in a bid to reject the laxity and riches of the Benedictine Order (as exemplified by great monasteries such as Cluny) and to return to a primitive poverty and austerity of life. Bernard arrived at Cîteaux with four of his five brothers and two dozen friends. Within three years he had been sent out to found a new monastery at Clairvaux, in Champagne, where he remained abbot for the rest of his life. By the time of his death, the Cistercian Order had grown from one house to 343, of which 68 were daughter houses of Clairvaux itself. Bernard was a man of great holiness and wisdom, and although he was often in very poor health, he was active in many of the great public debates of the time. He strongly opposed the luxurious lives of some of the clergy, and fought against the persecution of the Jews. He was also a prolific writer, of an inspiring rather than a technical kind. The Church is always suffering from corruption and always being renewed. If St Bernard, so often ill, could take a leading part in this renewal, what excuse do *we* have?

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 AUGUST



For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Leo PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



**THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR**

Robert Drinkwater
at St. Mary Magdalen's

**Alan and Anthony McDade
and James and Ethel Gibil**
at St. Cuthbert's

**The Dobson and
Richards Families**
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

8th August
Kevin Dixon

43



at St Mary Magdalen's
9th August
Number 180
Prize £50

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Julia Mason and Mary Faill who have died. Julia Mason's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 25th August at 11:00am at St. Joseph's. Mary Faill's funeral details will be shared in due course. **REQUIEScant IN PACE.**

WITH THANKS - AFTERNOON TEA & AVE MARIA DAY TRIP

With thanks to all who came to the afternoon tea at St Joseph's earlier this week. Everyone had a lovely afternoon and we raised £175 for parish funds. A further thanks to those who attended the Ave Maria day trip—a great time was had by all!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed Monday to Friday (17th—21st August) and the phones will not be answered. In the event of an emergency please contact Fr. Charles directly at the number on the front of the bulletin.

PRINT QUALITY ISSUES

We apologise for the print quality of the bulletin over the last few weeks. The printer engineers have been working tirelessly over the last ten days or so to fix the issues we have had and on Thursday we finally got to the bottom of the problem and the quality has now been restored!

SIGN UP TO THE BULLETIN ONLINE

To help us reduce printing costs and care for the environment, we encourage parishioners to sign up to receive the weekly bulletin by email. By signing up, you'll help us reduce the number of printed copies we need each week — and you'll also receive the bulletin earlier, usually on a Friday, so you can keep up to date with all the latest parish news and announcements. Sign up today to receive the bulletin straight to your inbox: seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin#Sign-Up

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS

We encourage Parishioners to participate at the tea and coffee after Sunday Masses at our parish halls in St. Mary Magdalen's and St. Joseph's. A time to chat with friends and develop a community spirit.

APPRECIATION FROM FR. CELESTINE (NIGERIA)

I wish to express my unalloyed gratitude to the entire parishioners and to Fr. Charles for your hospitality, generosity and kindness to me during my one month holiday. It was a very interesting experience, staying at St. Mary Magdalens' and visiting other two Churches with Fr. Charles. I felt at home with your love and care, and inspired by your faith and commitment to God. I pray that God will continue His good works in your lives. I arrived safely to my parish in Nigeria, and will keep you all in my prayers and Masses always. Please, do remember me in your prayers as well. Kind regards, Fr. Celestine.

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 as soon as possible.

✠ 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 15th Aug ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10:00am <i>Holy Rosary at the Grotto</i> 10:30am MASS For those with hearing problems <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Dorothy Martin	
Sunday 16th Aug ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9:30am MASS John Foreman <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Peter Smith <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Monday 17th Aug <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 18th Aug <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Danny Cassidy		
Wed 19th Aug <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		9:30am MASS Carol Ann Groark	10:00am MASS Clare Marie Hudson
Thurs 20th Aug <i>St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Joseph Gray		
Friday 21st Aug <i>The Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle</i>			10:00am MASS Andrew & Isabel Welch
Saturday 22nd Aug <i>Our Lady, Mother and Queen</i> THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration and Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Private Intention (CC) <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Billy and Kitty Ward	
Sunday 23rd Aug THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Willima & Molly Gallagher <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Cathie & Bobby Smith & DFM <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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www.seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin