



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 TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 23RD
AUGUST 2026

"YOU ARE PETER, AND
I WILL GIVE YOU THE
KEYS OF THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

MATTHEW 16

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

PARISH WEBSITE

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PARISH OFFICE EMAIL

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FACEBOOK

[Facebook.com/SeahamCatholics](https://www.facebook.com/SeahamCatholics)

**SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

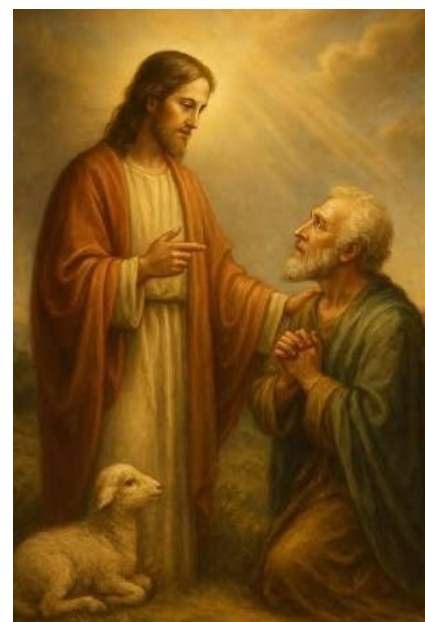
St Mary Magdalen's
Carole Robson

St Cuthbert's
Kelly Lamond

St Joseph's
Vicki Bramley

SUNDAY MESSAGE

At last Peter recognises that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. At last he realises that in Jesus he can see the action of God made visible. The disciples followed Jesus as soon as he called, but for a long time they were puzzled about what to make of him, of his wonderful teaching and his godlike personality. Now comes a shaft of light and understanding. We too often take some time to appreciate the true worth of someone we know well: a little gesture can sometimes reveal just how generous and thoughtful they are. Peter suddenly grasps that here is the Son of God, acting among them, a daunting or even terrifying thought. Jesus replies to Peter's recognition with his own generosity, giving him a new name, 'Rock', for this is what 'Peter' means. If you name something, you make it your own, take it to yourself. This is just what Jesus does with Simon who becomes his own Peter, his own 'Rock'. That is the importance of the naming of a child at Baptism: Jesus takes us to himself and we become his. The early Christians called themselves 'Those over whom the name of Jesus has been called'. We may have been named Mary or John, but the name of Jesus has been called over us and we have become his.



What are the implications for us of Jesus' promise to Peter?

ST AUGUSTINE, BISHOP | 28TH AUGUST

Augustine was born in Thagaste in Africa of a Berber family. He was brought up a Christian but left the Church early and spent a great deal of time seriously seeking the truth, first in the Manichaean heresy, which he abandoned on seeing how nonsensical it was, and then in Neoplatonism, until at length, through the prayers of his mother and the teaching of St Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity and baptized in 387, shortly before his mother's death. Augustine had a brilliant legal and academic career, but after his conversion he returned home to Africa and led an ascetic life. He was elected Bishop of Hippo and spent 34 years looking after his flock, teaching them, strengthening them in the faith and protecting them strenuously against the errors of the time. He wrote an enormous amount and left a permanent mark on both philosophy and theology. His *Confessions*, as dazzling in style as they are deep in content, are a landmark of world literature. The Second Readings in the Office of Readings contain extracts from many of his works. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Boniface VIII in 1308.



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

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's
15th August
Hughie Penman

7



at St Mary Magdalen's
16th August
Number 164
Prize £50



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.

Leone PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

Tommy & Ethel Donnelly
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Wallis & Bruton Families
at St. Cuthbert's

Fr Hastie
at St. Joseph's

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

ALPHA COURSE IN THE POLISH LANGUAGE

At St Mary's Church, Newton Aycliffe they have an active Polish language speaking group. The group are running its second Alpha course, **using the Polish language** in their church starting on Thursday September 17 from 19:00 to 21:00. The course lasts for 13 weeks. The evenings begin with a meal together, watching a short film and then discussion in small groups. Any enquiries can be directed to alphanewtonaycliffe@gmail.com

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Faill who has died. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church on Friday 28th August at 10:00am. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

LEPRA APPEAL 2026

There will be an appeal on behalf of Lepra on Saturday 5th / Sunday 6th September. They are not able to send a representative so we will do the appeal on their behalf. Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life-changing disabilities and even blindness. One-in-two people diagnosed with leprosy suffer moderate to severe depression and anxiety due to the prejudice and discrimination associated with the disease. Evidence shows over 3 million people are living with undiagnosed leprosy. Over 4 million people are living with a life-changing disability caused by leprosy. But it is curable! 2024 was Lepra's Centenary Year and for over 100 years Lepra's research has led to new and innovative approaches to healthcare programmes. Lepra seeks to provide better detection, treatment and support mechanisms, to advocate for those without a voice, to challenge prejudice wherever it exists, to strengthen local health systems and to help provide sustainable healthcare in partnership with local communities for a future free from the terrible impact of the disease. To read some real-life stories of some of the beneficiaries whose lives have been changed through the work of Lepra, please visit www.lepra.org.uk. With your help we can find, diagnose and treat more people affected by leprosy so that they will have a brighter future, full of hope.

MASS 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 collection plate, placed in the Presbytery letterbox or handed to a Priest or Deacon.

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 and scroll to the bottom of the page.

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.

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 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>
Monday 24th Aug <i>St Bartholomew, Apostle</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 25th Aug <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Private Intention		11:00am REQUIEM MASS Julia Mason
Wed 26th Aug <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		9:30am MASS Tommy McCabe	10:00am MASS Albert & Vera Short
Thurs 27th Aug <i>St Monica</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Souls in Purgatory		
Friday 28th Aug <i>St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor</i>			10:00am REQUIEM MASS Mary Faill
Saturday 29th Aug <i>Beheading of St John the Baptist</i> THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration and Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS For all Parishioners <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Veronica and James Smith	
Sunday 30th Aug THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Mary Savage <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Lydia Gorman <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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