



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 OF EASTER 26TH APRIL 2026

*GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY*



**"TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP"**

JOHN 10

### PARISH PRIEST

Rev. Fr. Charles. C. Ejieji  
T: 0191 581 2368

### RETIRED PRIESTS

Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh  
Rev. Fr. John Massheddar

### PARISH DEACONS

Rev. Peter Linsley  
Rev. Bong Nidea

### PARISH OFFICE

Secretary – Brenda Williamson | T: 0191 562 3331

### PARISH WEBSITE

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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

# SM SUNDAY MESSAGE

In each year of the three-year cycle of readings this fourth Sunday of Easter is designated Good Shepherd Sunday, with readings from the parable given in John 10. In the first two Sundays after Easter the meetings with the Risen Lord are described, but after that the most important truth about the Risen Lord which the Church puts before us is that this Jesus whom we encounter is the Good Shepherd. In the Old Testament God is the Shepherd of Israel, and indeed in the neighbouring pastoral nations too the protective deity of the nation is commonly called their 'Shepherd'. As the pastoral ancient world well knew, the duty of shepherds is to care devotedly for the sheep, with no regard to the personal cost to themselves. Ezekiel repeatedly castigates the recent leaders of Israel for their failure to care for the sheep and for managing the flock for their own personal advantage. It is especially striking that in all four gospels the divine title of Shepherd is transferred from God to Jesus himself, at least implying not only that Jesus is the perfect shepherd, but also that he is the incarnation of that divine Shepherd, fulfilling the duties which had hitherto been credited to the God of Israel alone. By his selfless generosity Jesus is the model for all rulers and leaders of nations.



**What does it mean to you to describe Jesus as the Good Shepherd?  
Who is your special guide in life and why?**

## ST CATHERINE OF SIENNA | 29TH APRIL

Catherine was born in Siena and, seeking perfection, entered the Third Order of the Dominicans when she was still in her teens. In 1370 she was commanded by a vision to leave her secluded life and enter the public life of the world. She wrote letters to many major public figures and carried on a long correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, urging him to reform the clergy and the administration of the Papal States. She burned with the love of God and her neighbour. As an ambassador she brought peace and harmony between cities. She fought hard to defend the liberty and rights of the Popes and did much for the renewal of religious life. She also dictated books full of sound doctrine and spiritual inspiration. She died on 29 April 1380. In 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church.



## ST PIUS V, POPE | 30TH APRIL

He was born near the Italian town of Alexandria, on the Adriatic, and joined the Dominicans and taught theology. He was made a bishop and fought to reform the moral laxity of the clergy. He was elected Pope in 1566. He strenuously promoted the Catholic Reformation that was started by the Council of Trent. He encouraged missionary work and reformed the liturgy.

## 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](mailto:bulletin@seaham-catholics.org.uk)



## POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL



### For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

*Leone PP. XIV*

## SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

**The Usher Family**  
at St. Mary Magdalen's

**Bill & Mary Dixon**  
at St. Cuthbert's

**Peter Matterson**  
at St. Joseph's

## BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's  
18th April  
John Richards

48



at St Mary Magdalen's  
19th April  
Number 213  
Price: £50

# ✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

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## THANK YOU TO FATHER BENNETH

Thank you to Fr. Benneth who was with us at St. Cuthbert's and St. Mary Magdalen's last weekend. Next week, as we did last week, Services of the Word will take place at St. Cuthbert's and St. Mary Magdalen's. Midweek Mass will be available at St. Joseph's for those who wish to attend. All Mass and service times are detailed overleaf.

## COMMISSIONING OF NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

This morning, Sunday 26th April, at St. Mary Magdalen's 9:30am Mass, Fr. Frank will commission two new extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Eileen Reah and Nicola Milburn have been called to service in the liturgy and to the sick and housebound. With gratitude and joy we commission them this weekend and ask for God's blessing upon them.

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Williams who has died. Anne was parishioner of St. Cuthbert's. Her funeral arrangements will be announced in due course. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

## WITH THANKS FROM ST JOSEPH'S

Thanks to all who contributed towards the Easter egg raffle at St Joseph's which raised £75 and to those who attended the Easter afternoon tea, we raised £128 for parish funds.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Today is a special Day of Prayer for Vocations. This World Day of Prayer is an important moment in the life of the Church, both globally and within our own Diocese. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on the call God places on each person, and to pray especially for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. The Church depends on the generous response of individuals who are willing to serve God and His people. By praying for vocations, we support those currently discerning their calling and encourage future generations to listen to God's voice. Please keep this intention in your prayers, asking that many may have the courage to respond to God's call.

## SPECIAL COLLECTION - LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Today there is a special collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international religious congregation dedicated to the care of the elderly, particularly those who are most vulnerable, poor, and in need of support. Through their work, they provide residential care, compassion, and dignity to older people, ensuring that each resident is treated with respect and love in a family-like environment. Their mission relies heavily on the generosity of others, as they strive to continue their vital service in our communities. Any contributions you are able to make will be greatly appreciated.

## THE NORTHERN BRETHERN FUND

The Northern Brethren Fund is still open across all three parishes but closes after Mass TODAY! This fund provides support for sick and retired priests within our Diocese, and any contributions are greatly appreciated.

## THE ONLINE UPDATE SERVICE - DBS FOR VOLUNTEERS

All those who help in the parish in any way, require a valid up to date DBS. The Update Service is a free online subscription service that allows you to keep your enhanced DBS certificates up to date. It enables the Diocese, with your consent, to complete your three yearly DBS check. Your Update Service Subscription requires an annual renewal. When this is due you will receive an email from DBS which will help you to do this. If you do not renew your subscription it will lapse and subsequently, when your DBS is due for checking, a full application will need to be completed including identity verification. If you need any further information regarding this, please speak to your Parish Safeguarding Representative, who are now detailed on the front of the bulletin.

# ✠ 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
<b>Saturday 25th April</b> <i>St Mark, Evangelist</i>  <b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		<b>4:30pm Mass</b> Connor Drinkwater	
<b>Sunday 26th April</b> <b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am MASS</b> Bernard Joseph Robson  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		<b>10:30am Confessions</b>  <b>11:00am MASS</b> Kamsi Jayden (1st Birthday)  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
<b>Monday 27th April</b> <i>Weekday in Eastertide</i>		<b>8:45am</b> <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>  <b>9:30am</b> <i>Service of the Word &amp; Holy Communion</i>	
<b>Tuesday 28th April</b> <i>Weekday in Eastertide</i>	<b>10:00am</b> <i>Service of the Word &amp; Holy Communion</i>		
<b>Wed 29th April</b> <i>St Catherine of Siena, Virgin</i>		<b>9:30am</b> <i>Service of the Word &amp; Holy Communion</i>	<b>10:00am MASS</b> Hoole and Foley Families
<b>Thurs 30th April</b> <i>St. Pius V, Pope</i>	<b>10:00am</b> <i>Service of the Word &amp; Holy Communion</i>		
<b>Friday 1st May</b> <i>Weekday in Eastertide</i>			<b>10:00am MASS</b> Maureen and Harry Morris
<b>Saturday 2nd May</b> <i>St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor</i>  <b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		<b>4:30pm Mass</b> Annie & Bob Longstaff	
<b>Sunday 3rd May</b> <b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am MASS</b> Kathleen M. O'Connor  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		<b>10:30am Confessions</b>  <b>11:00am MASS</b> Mary Ann Robinson and Patricia Weldon (A)  <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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