



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 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26TH OCTOBER 2025



**"THE TAX COLLECTOR WENT DOWN TO HIS HOUSE JUSTIFIED,
RATHER THAN THE PHARISEE "**

LUKE 18

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FACEBOOK

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SUNDAY MESSAGE

These two figures in today's Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists, they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God's Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus' time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this parable is one more example of Jesus' reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble 'pierces the clouds'. Take some moments to reflect on these words from the Gospel: "God be merciful to me, a sinner".



Through these words, what is God saying to you?



SS SIMON AND JUDE - APOSTLES | 28TH OCTOBER

Simon is eleventh in the list of the twelve Apostles. He is known as Simon the Zealot, but nothing else is known about him. His other name of "Simon Cananaeus" simply adapts another Hebrew word for "zeal" and has nothing to do with the town of Cana. Jude, also called Thaddaeus, is the apostle who at the Last Supper asked the Lord why he showed himself only to the disciples and not to the world. For many centuries he was scarcely venerated because people confused him with Judas Iscariot. He is the patron saint of lost and desperate causes.



THE BLESSED MARTYRS OF DOUAI COLLEGE | 30TH OCTOBER

The English College at Douai was founded in 1568 to educate English Catholics, and in particular to act as a seminary training priests to enter England covertly, minister to English Catholics, and attempt the re-conversion of England to the faith. Simply being a Catholic priest was high treason in England at this time, with the penalty of hanging, drawing and quartering, and almost 160 of the priests from Douai were thus executed between 1577 and 1680. Each time the news of another execution reached the College, a solemn Mass of thanksgiving was sung.

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 OCTOBER



For collaboration between different religious traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

TBC
at St. Mary Magdalen's

John Mongan
at St. Cuthbert's

James & Mary Haffey
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

18th October
Bill Atkinson

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✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

This year's Solemnity of **All Saints** will be celebrated next weekend, on **Sunday the 2nd of November**, while the **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed** will be on **Monday the 3rd of November**. On **Monday 3rd of November**, we will have Mass in each parish, as given in the Missal. Mass will be **10:00am** at **St. Mary Magdalen's** and **St. Joseph's** and **6:00pm** at **St. Cuthbert's**. *We are encouraged to pray for the faithful departed and if possible offer Masses for them.*

NOVEMBER - MEMORIAL CANDLES AND MASS INTENTIONS

November is dedicated to the **Holy Souls**, when we remember all who have gone before us. **Memorial candles**, which will be lit and displayed on the sanctuary during all Masses on **Remembrance Sunday**, may be obtained with a **donation of £3**. Special envelopes, clearly marked "**Memorial Candle – Remembrance Sunday**", are available at the back of church. Please **write the name(s) of your loved one(s)** on the front of the envelope and **place it on the collection plate at Mass**. November can also be a good opportunity to have a Mass celebrated for a loved one, an anniversary or birthday. If you would like to have Holy Mass celebrated for any particular Intention, then please take an **Mass Intention Envelope** from the back of Church and return on the collection plate. Thank you for your kind offering and remembrance.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Derek Willey who has died. His Funeral Service will be celebrated at **St. Mary Magdalen's** on **Tuesday 28th October** at **12noon**. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE**.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND SVP

Fr. Charles would like to meet with the Eucharistic ministers and members of the **SVP** for **St. Mary Magdalen's** on **Wednesday 29th October, 6pm** in the parish hall.

CLERGY TRAINING FUND

There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend for the Clergy Training Fund. This fund helps contribute towards the formation of clergy at a time where more vocations are essential.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON CLAUSE 191

Leaflets and information are available on the tables at the back of our churches regarding **Clause 191** of the **Crime and Policing Bill**, which is currently being debated in the House of Lords. This clause, added to the Bill after only 46 minutes of debate in the House of Commons, would **decriminalise abortion up to birth** if passed. Parishioners are encouraged to read the information provided and consider **writing to members of the House of Lords**. You can also follow updates and debate coverage through **Right to Life UK** and **SPUC** online. Many members of the House of Lords have already spoken out against this clause.

THANK YOU - SEA SUNDAY 2025

Stella Maris writes ... Thank you very much to all at for your kind support of the work of Stella Maris (formerly the Apostleship of the Sea) through our Sea Sunday 2025 appeal. We are most grateful for your parish's donation. The generosity shown by your parishioners will help ensure that seafarers and fishers in this country and around the world continue to receive the care and support that they need. For fishers and seafarers, life at sea can be extremely challenging. In current times, it is particularly perilous for those who travel through the Black or Red Seas due to the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. Our port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors provide a beacon of hope, demonstrating the love and care the Good Samaritan showed to the stranger that he found upon the road. We offer welcome, support and friendship to seafarers and fishers, bringing hope to those who feel forgotten or lonely and reminding them they are not alone. In this Jubilee Year, we are invited to be 'Pilgrims of Hope', people who bring light into dark places and show mercy in action. Through your congregation's prayers and financial support our chaplains and volunteers will be able to provide spiritual, pastoral and practical support seafarers and fishers over the next year. On behalf of us all at Stella Maris and our seafarer and fisher beneficiaries, I offer you and your congregation our heartfelt thanks for your compassionate and generous support of our ministry.

MAKE YOUR GIVING GO FURTHER WITH GIFT AID!

Did you know that if you're a UK taxpayer, your donations to the parish can go even further at **no extra cost to you**? With Gift Aid, the government adds 25% to your gift, helping us support our church, ministries, and community projects even more! It's simple to sign up and makes a huge difference: your regular donations go further, you help the parish care for our community and facilities, it costs you nothing extra! Sign up today by contacting your parish Gift Aid Organiser: Barbara Weetman - St Cuthberts, Charlotte Bagley - St Mary Magdalens, Brenda Williamson - St Josephs or visit <https://forms.office.com/e/BrxQTPnn3a?origin=lprLink>. Together, we can strengthen our parish and continue our mission to serve God and our community. Thank you for your generosity!

PIE AND PEA AFTERNOON AT ST. JOSEPH'S

There are still tickets available for the **pie and pea** lunch in the parish hall at St. Josephs' on **Tuesday 28th October** at **12:00pm**. Tickets are on sale at the back of Church, in the Coffee Morning after Mass at St. Joseph's on a Sunday or you can also email the parish office at mmm.seaham@diocesehn.org.uk if you wish to obtain tickets. All parishioners from all three parishes are welcome to attend.

✠ 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 25th Oct <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>The Thirtieth</i> <i>Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Mary Coxon RIP	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS The People of the Parish	
Sunday 26th Oct <i>The Thirtieth</i> <i>Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am MASS Bobby Dodds (A) <i>Coffee in the Hall</i> <i>after Mass</i>		10:30am <i>Confessions</i> 11:00am MASS Lorraine Bates (A) <i>Coffee in the Hall</i> <i>after Mass</i>
Mon 27th Oct <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration of the</i> <i>Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word</i> <i>& Holy Communion</i>	
Tues 28th Oct <i>SS Simon and Jude, Apostles</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Derek Willey 12pm FUNERAL SERVICE Derek Willey		
Wed 29th Oct <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		9:30am MASS Celestine Ejieji	10:00am MASS Thanksgiving to Our Lady and The Sacred Heart
Thurs 30th Oct <i>The Blessed Martyrs</i> <i>of Douai College</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Pat Frazer		
Friday 31st Oct <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>			10:00am MASS Margaret Christie
Saturday 1st Nov <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>The Solemnity</i> <i>of All Saints</i>	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Mary Coxon (MD)	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS The souls in Purgatory	
Sunday 2nd Nov <i>The Solemnity</i> <i>of All Saints</i>	9:30am MASS In Thanksgiving (KMC) <i>Coffee in the Hall</i> <i>after Mass</i>		10:30am <i>Confessions</i> 11:00am MASS Tom and Mary Scurfield <i>Coffee in the Hall</i> <i>after Mass</i>

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