

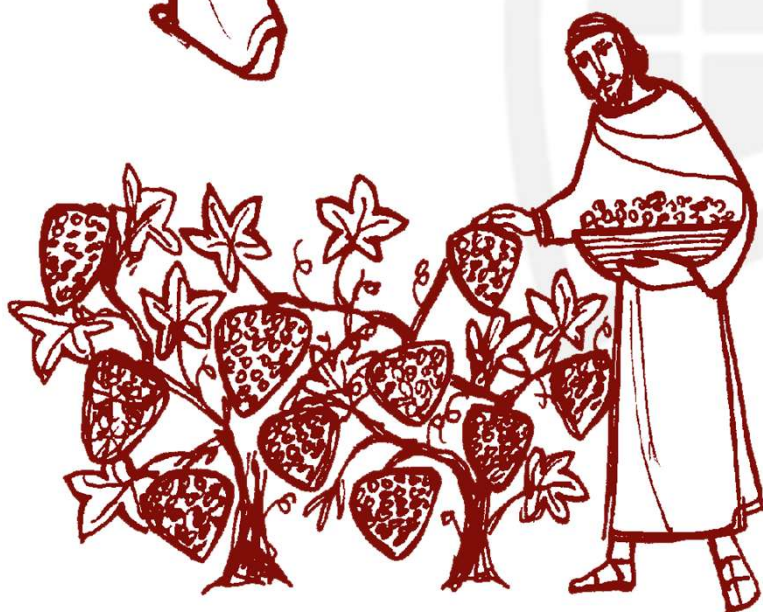


The Catholic Parishes of

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-
SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 27TH
SEPTEMBER 2026

*"Son, go and work in the vineyard
today." And he answered,
"I will not", but afterwards he
changed his mind and went".*

MATTHEW 20

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

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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

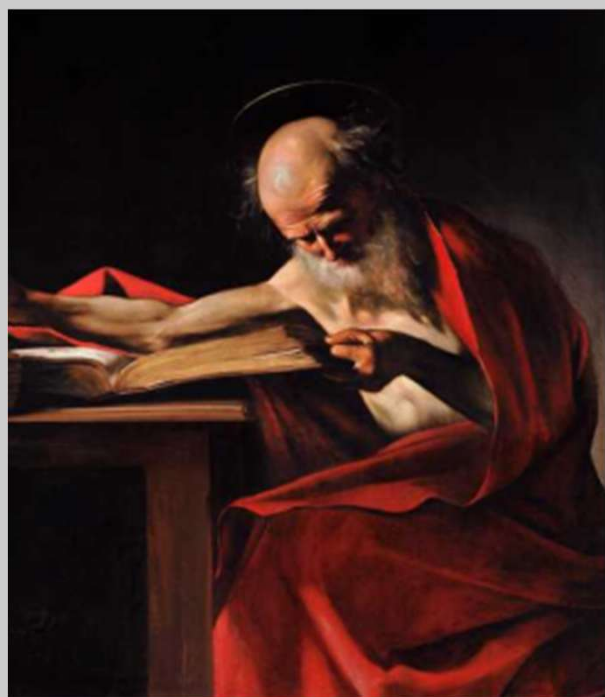
St Joseph's
Vicki Bramley

SUNDAY MESSAGE

Matthew loves to tell parables of Jesus which contrast 'goodies' and 'baddies' like these two contrasting sons. Matthew's parables put everything in black-and-white terms with no shades of grey (wise and foolish wedding-attendants, sheep and goats, etc.). Luke uses a different kind of parable, in which the characters - just like ourselves - often do the right thing for the wrong reason. The sayings of Jesus were handed down by word of mouth for some years before being written down. Did the straightforward contrast in Matthew (it is odd that both change their minds without a reason) develop into Luke's parable of the Prodigal Son? Both times the 'goodie' son ends up bad, and the 'baddie' son ends up good, but in Luke's version both changes of mind are motivated, and there is great emphasis on the son's repentance and the father's overwhelming joy at getting him back. The lesson in Matthew's story is given also by Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount, 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven'. It is no use simply saying that Christ is our 'Lord'; we have to express it in our behaviour.



What meaning do you find in this parable for yourself and the relationship you have with the Father?



ST JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR | 30TH SEPT

He was born in Strido, in Dalmatia. He studied in Rome and was baptized there. He was attracted by the ascetic life and travelled to the East, where he was (unwillingly) ordained a priest. He was recalled to Rome to act as secretary to Pope Damasus, but on the Pope's death he returned to the East, to Bethlehem, where (with the aid of St Paula and others) he founded a monastery, a hospice, and a school, and settled down to the most important work of his life, the translation of the Bible into Latin, a translation which, with some revisions, is still in use today. He wrote many works of his own, including letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture. When a time of troubles came upon the world, through barbarian invasions, and to the Church, through internal dissension, he helped the refugees and those in need. He died at Bethlehem.

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

19th September
Sarah Smith

45

at St Mary Magdalen's

20th September
Number 334 - £50



POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Leo PP. XIV



SANCTUARY CANDLE



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

**Past & Present Priests
of the Parish
at St. Mary Magdalen's**

**John Mongan & Deceased of the
Mongan and Scollen Families
at St. Cuthbert's**

**Our retired Priests
at St. Joseph's**

OTHER NEWS

Fr. Charles will be away on conference in ongoing formation for all Orlu Diocesan Priests in the United Kingdom at Corby from Monday 28th to 30th September. Note the change in Masses overleaf.

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HARVEST

At all Masses this weekend we celebrate a day of prayer for the harvest. *"Compassionate God, as I celebrate a full harvest table, I remember those whose cupboards are bare. I pray for every family worried about their next meal... provide for them and bring them hope. Amen"*

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

The Holy Mass is a special prayer where we gather as a community to raise our hearts and minds to God. Masses could be offered for the living and the dead. We are encouraged to request Mass intentions for recovery of the sick, in thanksgiving to God, for people struggling and enduring natural disaster, for peace in our communities and the world, and for our dead friends and relatives, and various 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 Sunday collection plate, placed in the Presbytery letterbox or handed to a Priest or Deacon. Please note there is a backlog of Mass Intentions at St. Joseph's with the diary booked up until the end of October. If you want a Mass said quickly please request for it to be said at St. Mary Magdalen's or St. Cuthbert's.

THE AVE MARIA CLUB

Thank you to the Ave Maria club who have kindly donated £250 to parish funds at St Mary Magdalen's

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

St Mary Magdalen's school children will be holding their Macmillan Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday, 4th October, in St Mary Magdalen's Parish Hall. Everyone is warmly welcome to come along and support this very worthwhile cause.

ST.MARY MAGDALENS MISSIO COLLECTION

The autumn edition of the Missio magazine is available for you to collect at the back of the church. Please help yourself. There is no Missio collection until the beginning of December.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK

The Salvation Army in Murton are looking for donations towards their food bank. Any food or toiletries would be most appreciated. Please leave at the back of St. Joseph's Church.

ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH GROUNDS

Thank you to Eva O'Neill who is a gardener and has volunteered to assist on the ongoing maintenance of the Church grounds. If anyone else would be willing to volunteer to maintain any of our church grounds please have a word with a priest or a deacon!

NEWS ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

Please ensure all news items are emailed to bulletin@seaham-catholics.org.uk before Wednesday evening. Failure to submit news to this email address may result in articles not being published.

CONFIRMATIONS 2026

There are confirmation forms at the back of each of our Churches. Please fill the form if you would like to join the classes and return them through the Parish Priest, deacon or any of the sacristans. Thanks. – Fr. Charles

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT

The Annual Mass Count is taken over four weekends monitoring attendance at Mass began last weekend. Masses will be counted and logged for the next three weeks.

✠ 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 26th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration and Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Maggie & William Gartland & DFM <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Deceased Members of the Welsh and Ward Families	
Sunday 27th Sept THE TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Billy, Margaret, Michael Gartland & DFM <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Ann & Charles Carmichael and DFM <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Monday 28th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 29th Sept <i>St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels - FEAST</i>	No Masses or Services today		
Wed 30th Sept <i>St Jerome, Priest, Doctor</i>		9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	10:00am MASS Maureen & Denis Whalen
Thurs 1st October <i>St Therese of the Child Jesus</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Freda Myers		
Friday 2nd October <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>			10:00am MASS Andrew & Isabel Welsh
Saturday 3rd October <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00am <i>Adoration and Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS Brian Crozier <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Maureen Scollen	
Sunday 4th October THE TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Charles and Mable McGann <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Maureen & Denis Whalen & Margaret Christie <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

If you wish to receive this bulletin by email please subscribe at
www.seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin