



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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORDS PASSION 29TH MARCH 2026



'ELI, ELI, LEMA SABACH'THANI?'

MATTHEW 27

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

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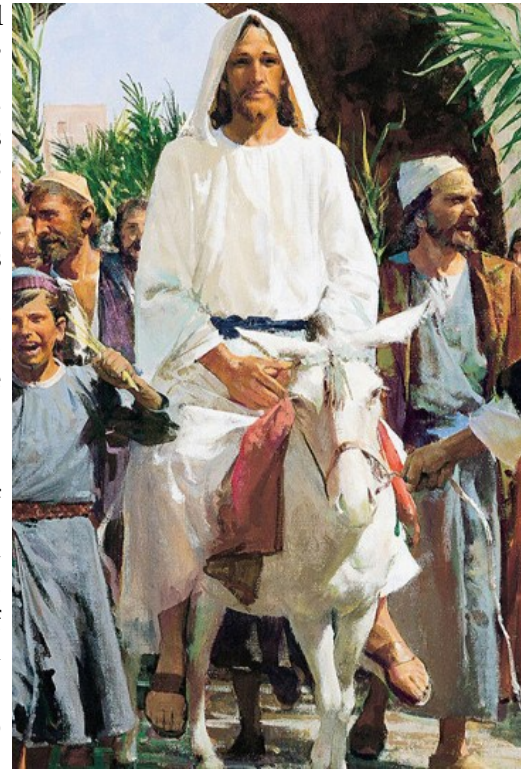
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FACEBOOK

@SeahamCatholics

SM SUNDAY MESSAGE

Today's liturgy concentrates on two very different events, the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as Messianic King and the events of a few days later which culminated in his agonising and shameful death. This seeming end-point was to be reversed by the explosion of new life in the Resurrection after three days, an explosion which constituted God's vindication of Jesus' loving obedience and the affirmation that it has overcome and wiped out the sin of Adam, human sin. How much time did Jesus spend in Jerusalem? The Gospel of John recounts four separate visits to Jerusalem, whereas Mark (and Matthew and Luke, who follow Mark's outline) compresses all Jesus' Jerusalem ministry into one visit, inaugurated by the solemn entry, as narrated in the gospel we hear today before the procession with palms. This event is recounted by the evangelists in the light of their fuller understanding of Jesus after the Resurrection. We see the colourful, festal atmosphere of crowds going up to Jerusalem, waving palm branches as banners in their enthusiasm and singing as they march. Jesus and his disciples join in. But it may be only later that the significance of this event was grasped: this entry was the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah about the Messiah coming into his inheritance, to complete his God-given mission and to proclaim peace to the nations. Matthew especially, writing for a community steeped in Judaism, actually quotes the prophecy and also the psalm-verse about 'him who comes in the name of the Lord'. He stresses that Jesus is this Son of David, whose eschatological kingship is about to be established.



Next week is known as Holy Week: how and when will you take time to listen to God and grow in holiness?

THE CHRISM MASS | WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

The Chrism Mass is a pivotal Holy Week liturgy where the bishop blesses the Sacred Oils—Chrism, Catechumens, and Sick—used for sacraments throughout the year, and priests renew their ordination vows. It symbolizes the unity of the local church and the bishop with his priests, highlighting the sacramental life of the diocese.

Blessing of the Holy Oils: The bishop consecrates the Sacred Chrism and blesses the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumens, which are distributed to parishes for use in Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, & Anointing of the Sick.

Renewal of Priestly Promises: Priests from across the diocese gather with the bishop to renew their vows, highlighting their dedication to their ministry.

Symbol of Unity: This Mass demonstrates the connection between the bishop and his priests, as well as the unity of the entire local Church.

Significance of Oils: The oils serve as visible signs of God's invisible grace, marking Christians for their mission and providing comfort

Held in St Mary's cathedral on Wednesday 1st April at 11:00am, this celebration is a profound reminder of the Church's sacramental foundation. All diocesan parishioners are most welcome to attend. Tickets are not required.

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 MARCH



For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Leone PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE THAT BURNS AT THE SANCTUARY IS FOR

William & Hannah Sharvin
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Marie & Joe Woollet
at St. Cuthbert's

Cram & Rutherford Families
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's
21st March
Leila

46



at St Mary Magdalen's
22nd March
Number 246
Prize: £50

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

WE ENTER HOLY WEEK ...

Holy Week is here! Palm Sunday is today, and it marks the beginning of the most important week on the Christian calendar. It's the week we remember the most significant events in human history—the final days of Jesus' life on earth, His sacrifice, and His victory over death. Each year we walk through this week together—day by day. From Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday... to the Last Supper... the trial... the crucifixion... and ultimately, the resurrection. It's not just a tradition—it's an opportunity to slow down and truly experience the story that changed everything. This is also a great moment to invite someone to join you. Holy Week is powerful, even for people who are new to the Bible. Walking through it together can open meaningful conversations and deeper understanding. **Please see all of our Holy Week schedule overleaf.** We thank in advance our retired Priests and parish Deacon's who will be helping this coming Holy Week, allowing an array of different services across all three parishes. We hope for all clergy and parishioners to come together at the Easter Vigil next weekend.

OFFERTORY DONATION ENVELOPES

As we're nearing the start of the 2026-27 tax year, new boxes of donation envelopes are now available for collection at the back of all three parishes. Gift Aid donors will find a box marked with their name and number. There will also be boxes of envelopes without names or numbers, which you're free to take if you don't 'Gift Aid' your donations but still want to use envelopes to make regular donations. If you are a taxpayer, and you're able to make regular donations, we'd encourage you to become a 'Gift Aider'. That way the parish can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate. Just ask Father Charles or any of the team at the back of our Churches for a Gift Aid declaration form, and if you would like to use donation envelopes we'll provide you with a box of numbered envelopes as well.

THOSE ENTERING IN FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH

We keep in our prayers the five candidates that will be baptized and received into full communion with the Catholic Church on Easter Vigil. As we congratulate and appreciate them for their courage in embracing the faith.

WASHING OF THE FEET

We request that those who would like to participate in the washing of feet on Holy Thursday to please give their names to Fr. Charles or Deacon Peter after Mass. We hope to get six each from St. Mary Magdalen's and St. Cuthbert's.

PASTORAL STRATEGY

We are going to put out a questionnaire on Easter Sunday for the ongoing Pastoral Strategy. Please make your honest contributions.

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be at the Cathedral on Wednesday at 11:00am. Those who could, please attend. There will be no Mass on Wednesday at St. Cuthbert's as Fr Charles will attend the Chrism Mass.

FR CHARLES WRITES ...

I will be going away to Nigeria immediately after Easter for my holiday and few days retreat. I hope to be back on the 14th of May. Please keep me in your prayers

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We congratulate Eileen Reah and Nicola Milburn who have completed their training as Eucharistic Ministers. We thank them for their willingness to serve God and humanity as ministers. They will be Commissioned as soon as possible.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be the first meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council on Wednesday 1st April at St. Mary Magdalen's Parish Hall at 6:00pm. All the representatives from the Parishes are invited. Thanks to our parishioners who volunteer to serve in the Parish Council. I also appreciate all those who would have loved to be members, more names may be added in future if need be. The names of the representatives will be made known to us by next Sunday. I have increased the number of representatives from four to five for each of the Parishes, to accommodate every age group.

NEXT WEEKEND - TWO WEEK BULLETIN

Next weekend we will produce a bulletin to cover two weeks of Masses and news. This will allow our printing team to have a break following a busy period producing not only the bulletin and updating the website and social media but also the Mass booklets and printed liturgies in all three parishes.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you wish to contribute towards Easter Flowers which will adorn the sanctuary at St. Joseph's, please have a word with one of the team at the back of Church **TODAY**. Any donation is appreciated to decorate our Church over this special period.

DAY CHAPEL AT ST. JOSEPH'S

Following Mass today, Mass during the week at St. Joseph's will return to Church, rather than the day chapel over the Spring and Summer and will return to the day chapel in the Autumn.

✠ 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 28th March <i>Weekday in Lent</i> PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORDS PASSION	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS May & Billy McCourt <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Rose and Arthur Smith	
Sunday 29th March PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORDS PASSION	9:30am MASS John Carrigan <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>	3:00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS Shaun Ebbelwhite <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Mon 30th March <i>Monday in Holy Week</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tues 31st March <i>Tuesday in Holy Week</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Antonia O'Connor		
Wed 1st April <i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i>		<i>No Mass Today</i>	10:00am MASS John & Catherine Lamb
Thurs 2nd April HOLY THURSDAY	7:00pm HOLY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Jack, Elizabeth, Tommy & Rose McCabe		7:00pm HOLY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Lavinia Dobson
Friday 3rd April GOOD FRIDAY	10:00am <i>Stations of the Cross</i> 3:00pm COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION	3:00pm COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION	3:00pm COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION
Saturday 4th April HOLY SATURDAY	<i>No Mass this morning</i>	<i>No Confessions this evening</i> 6:00pm THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT In Thanksgiving for Recovery	
Sunday 5th April EASTER SUNDAY	9:30am MASS John M O'Connor <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am Confessions 11:00am MASS John Robinson & Mary Haffey <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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