



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-SECOND
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 30TH
AUGUST 2026

*"If anyone would come after me, let
him deny himself and take up his
cross and follow me"*

MATTHEW 16

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RETIRED PRIESTS

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Rev. Fr. John Masshedar

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**SAFEGUARDING
REPRESENTATIVES**

St Mary Magdalen's
Carole Robson

St Cuthbert's
Kelly Lamond

St Joseph's
Vicki Bramley

SUNDAY MESSAGE

What a turn-around! Last Sunday Peter was being congratulated on at last realising the Jesus was the Christ. He was promised the keys and authority to make decisions valid in heaven. Now Jesus shoos him away and tells him that he is Satan, the Tempter. Why the change? Jesus had told Peter that his role as Christ Messiah was to suffer and die in order to achieve his purpose, and Peter shied away from it. What is that particular soft option which you find it so easy to take? What is the difficult task Christ is asking of you, and you are avoiding? We are no better than his first disciples! It happens twice more in the gospel that Jesus foretells his passion and each time the disciples simply fail to understand. Each time Jesus puts it bluntly that you cannot be a Christian without following Jesus in carrying a Cross. We see people suffering the whole time, physical disabilities, breakdown of relationships, heartless treatment from others, financial worries – and then we grouse at a twinge of pain or a hurtful word. Carry the Cross behind Jesus? Yes, of course I will, but if you don't mind, I'll just take that section which is well padded and fits my shoulder nicely. No point in unnecessary splinters in my neck!



What is the heaviest Cross in your life? How can you share it with Jesus?



ST AIDAN | 31ST AUGUST

Aidan, a native of Ireland, was a monk on Iona. When the Christian King Oswald returned from exile on Iona to his kingdom of Northumbria, he invited the monks of Iona to provide missionaries to instruct his people in Christianity. After initial difficulties, Aidan was consecrated bishop and sent with a group of Irish monks to begin this task. He established a monastery on the island of Lindisfarne which became the centre of a major missionary effort in the North of England. The monastery also became a valuable centre of learning and an important training ground for the education of English boys who would continue the work of evangelisation. From Lindisfarne Aidan journeyed throughout Northumberland, usually on foot, and working closely with King Oswald who found him to be a wise adviser and a good personal friend. After Oswald's death in 642, Aidan continued this work under his successor, Oswin, but when Oswin himself was killed nine years later, Aidan did not long survive him and died two weeks later in 651. According to Bede, Aidan was a man of great gentleness and moderation, outstanding for his energetic missionary work. His influence on the North of England was enormous, and his wise promotion of Christian education among the native English laid the solid foundation for the spread of the Gospel in the centuries which followed his death.

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



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.

Leo PP. XIV

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

Mary and Dick Lavery
at St. Mary Magdalen's

Thomas and Maureen McGann
at St. Cuthbert's

Fr Ronnie Richmond
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

22nd August
Geraldine Miller

3



at St Mary Magdalen's
23rd August
Number 323
Prize £50

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

LEPROSY APPEAL - 5TH AND 6TH SEPTEMBER

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. Many children are unable to attend school and adults are cast out from their communities and forced to live isolated lives away from their family and friends. New cases of leprosy, adult or child, are being found amongst the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world. We appreciate your help to support the treatment of those affected as most of them in some parts of the world could not afford a hospital treatment.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of James Tasker McGhin and Mary Veronica Trainer who have died. James McGhin's Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 2nd September at 11:00am at St Mary Magdalen's, Mary Trainer's Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 4th September at 1:30pm at St. Cuthbert's. **REQUIESCENT IN PACE.**

WITH THANKS

We thank the Health and Safety representatives of our Parish and every other volunteers in on our Parishes for your dedication and commitment. We appreciate your time and sacrifices in making sure that we are safe within the Church premises and that everything goes well for all the parishioners. May God bless you all.

CHANGES NEXT WEEK

Mass and Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday 5th September is cancelled at St Mary Magdalen's.

YOUTH/CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

We thank two of our parishioners who have come forward volunteering to help in organising a program involving the young people in our Parishes. We will form a little group that will meet with the Chaplains of the secondary schools, to plan for the possible events in the coming year and also organize a confirmation program.

CHANGE TO DBS LEGISLATION

Currently, anyone carrying out regulated activity with children can be supervised by a DBS holder when carrying out their role. This element of supervision is now being removed and all persons carrying out regulated activity with children will require an enhanced DBS check with child barred list information from the 1st of September 2026. If a person teaches, trains, instructs, cares for, or supervises children often enough (3 times in 30 days), they will be in regulated activity with children even if someone else supervises them. This will also apply to any young helpers over the age of 16, who will also need a DBS check from the 1st of September, if they are assisting with activities involving young people.

THE TERMINALLY ILL ASSISTED DYING BILL

You will be given a postcard at Mass today urging you to write to your Member of Parliament to urge them to oppose a re-introduced Private Members Bill to be brought to the House of Commons on Friday 11 September. The euthanasia lobby will not easily give up its efforts to breach long-established protections in our laws, and we must be as resolute and tireless in our own stand for the value of every human life and the protection of the most vulnerable. As Christians we oppose medical killing in principle. The sanctity of human life is one of the great gifts which Christianity brought to human civilisation. However, in writing to your Member of Parliament we need to also highlight the dangerous consequences of this deeply flawed Bill becoming law. We need to point out with many others the threat posed to some of the most vulnerable and the need for the adequate provision of palliative care, seen in the wonderful work of our hospices.

SUMMER BREAK

As the summer comes to a close we hope all in our parish community have had a refreshing end to their holidays. We look forward to welcoming all our staff and children back to school this coming week, we hope you have all had a relaxing break!

EDUCATION SUNDAY 2026

Education Sunday falls on the second Sunday of September (13 September, in 2026) just as the new academic year starts and is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 178 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead. There will be a retiring collection at all Masses on the weekend of 12th/13th September.

GOOD LUCK TO JOHN IN THE GREAT NORTH RUN!

One of our Altar Servers, **John**, will be taking on the **Great North Run on Sunday, 13th September**, raising funds for **Cancer Research UK**. The Great North Run is a tremendous challenge, and we wish John every success as he takes on the half-marathon and raises money to support the vital work of Cancer Research UK. If any parishioners would like to **support John and sponsor his run**, donations can be made through his Cancer Research UK fundraising page: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/johns-giving-page-118118797>. **Good luck, John!** We hope the training goes well, that you have a fantastic run on the day, and, most importantly, that you raise plenty of money for such an important cause. **Please keep John in your prayers as he prepares for the big day!**

DONATION FROM THE AVE MARIA CLUB

St Cuthbert's parish would like to thank The Ave Maria for a donation of £250 to parish funds.

✠ 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 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>
Monday 31st Aug <i>St Aidan, Bishop & Missionary</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tuesday 1st Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Joe Sudas		
Wed 2nd Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	11:00am FUNERAL SERVICE James Tasker McGhin	9:30am MASS Thanks to Our Lady and St. Joseph	10:00am MASS Kathleen Biddle
Thurs 3rd Sept <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Terence Jackson SNR		
Friday 4th Sept <i>Translation of St. Cuthbert</i>		1:30pm REQUIEM MASS Mary Veronica Trainer	10:00am MASS In Thanksgiving
Saturday 5th Sept <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<i>Mass and Adoration cancelled this morning</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS John and June Smith	
Sunday 6th Sept THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am MASS Sheila and son David Moreton <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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