



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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 30TH NOVEMBER 2025



"THE SON OF MAN IS COMING AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT"

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RETIRED PRIESTS

Rev. Fr. Frank McCullagh

Rev. Fr. John Masshedar

PARISH DEACONS

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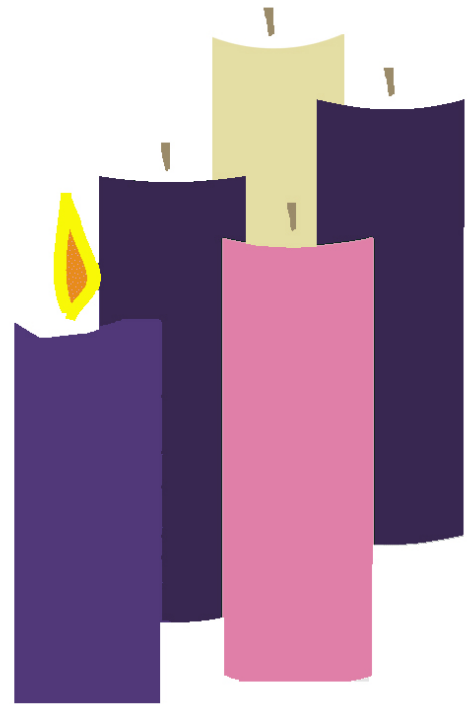
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FACEBOOK

@SeahamCatholics

SUNDAY MESSAGE

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory. The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be. The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER | 3RD DECEMBER

He was born in the Basque country of Spain in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities; and in 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan.

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 DECEMBER



For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

SANCTUARY CANDLE



THE CANDLE
THAT BURNS AT THE
SANCTUARY IS FOR

TBC
at St. Mary Magdalen's

The McGann Family
at St. Cuthbert's

**Living and Deceased
Parishioners**
at St. Joseph's

BONUS BALL WINNER

at St Joseph's

22nd November
JJ Ward

35

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

Last week's Feast of Christ the King brought the Church's year to its end. Today the season of Advent begins and we prepare to welcome the Lord at Christmas. Advent is a season of waiting and expectation for Christmas – the birth of Christ, the Nativity of Our Lord. We prepare our homes and hearts for four weeks before Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent is also the beginning of the new liturgical year when we transition into a new liturgical cycle. Today, on the first Sunday of Advent in 2025, we transition from Cycle C to Cycle A. During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray in particular for Migrants, Refugees and Expectant Mothers.

FOOD BANK AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

At this time of the year, many people are having to make the choice between eating and heating. Food banks are struggling to cope with the demand. If, as we come to weekend Mass, could we please bring one item for those struggling. Imagine the difference we might make.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Thanks to all who contributed in our Youth Sunday / Christ the King celebrations. Also a huge thank you to those who contributed to the second collection for YMT. St Mary Magdalen's collected £174.16, St Cuthbert's £201.70 and St. Joseph's £175.81

MISSIO BOXES

For those who have Missio Boxes at St Cuthbert's and St Joseph's please leave your money at the back of Church, clearly labelled.

ST JOSEPH'S REPOSITORY

The Repository at the back of St. Joseph's is now stocked with Christmas gifts.

CHRISTMAS SANCTUARY LAMPS

The **Sanctuary Candle's for 2026**, are now **ON SALE in all three parishes**. You can purchase a sanctuary lamp in memory of a loved one, or any appropriate intention for **£10.00**. The red candles will burn around the Altar on **Christmas Eve** and will then be stored and used, one by one, throughout the year on the Sanctuary. To take part, please collect a special envelope from the back of the church marked "**Sanctuary Candle Intention.**" Enclose £10, complete the details on the front of the envelope, and place it in the collection plate or hand it directly to a **Priest or Deacon**. Please note: the candle will be placed in the church where your intention is submitted.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alice Groves who has died. Her **Requiem Mass** will take place at **Holy Cross Home, Sunderland**, on Tuesday 2nd December at 11:15am followed by interment at St Joseph's Murton Cemetery. **REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

Next year from Friday 31st July – Friday 7th August the Diocese will be celebrating our Centenary Year, 100 years since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Joseph Thorman. Our Centenary Year Pastoral Theme: The Annunciation "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Lk. 1:28) This is the year of the welcome, of listening and of the 'yes' that changed everything. Being the Centenary, we have had increased interest in people wanting to go to Lourdes in 2026. Pre Registration is now open, please visit www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-newcastle-2/ or phone 01732 886 666 Youth Section - The Youth Section is organised through the Youth Ministry Team (YMT). If you are aged 16 (on the day of travel) – 21. For more information, please visit ymt.org/be-ayouth-helper-at-diocesan-lourdes-pilgrimage-2025/ Assisted Pilgrims - The pilgrimage offers a special section for Assisted Pilgrims who need Nursing Care or some other form of specialised care during the week in Lourdes. If you would like to know more about being an assisted pilgrim, please contact the Lead Nurse through the email address lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk. Please include in the email your name and a contact number for the Lead Nurse to contact you directly with more information.

✠ 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 Nov <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS For the persecuted Christians in Nigeria <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS James & Margaret Atkinson	
Sunday 30th Nov THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 	9:30am MASS Bernard Robson <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am <i>Confessions</i> 11:00am MASS James & Mary Haffey (A) <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>
Mon 1st Dec <i>Weekday in Advent</i>		8:45am <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9:30am <i>Service of the Word & Holy Communion</i>	
Tues 2nd Dec <i>Weekday in Advent</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Robert Drinkwater		
Wed 3rd Dec <i>St Francis Xavier, Priest</i>		9:30am MASS Souls in Purgatory	10:00am MASS Denis & Maureen Whalen
Thurs 4th Dec <i>St John Damascene, Priest or St. Osmund, Bishop</i>	9:40am <i>Holy Rosary</i> 10:00am MASS Barbara Hicks		
Friday 5th Dec <i>Weekday in Advent</i>			10:00am MASS Shiela Ward & her parents
Saturday 6th Dec <i>St Nicholas, Bishop</i> THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10:00am <i>Adoration & Benediction</i> 10:30am MASS The Foreman & Gallagher Families <i>Confessions after Mass</i>	4:00 - 4:20pm <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm VIGIL MASS Ernie Jones	
Sunday 7th Dec THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 	9:30am MASS Michael (Paddy) Mullan <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>		10:30am <i>Confessions</i> 11:00am MASS Teresa & John Garrigan & Hilda Fraser <i>Coffee in the Hall after Mass</i>

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www.seaham-catholics.org.uk/bulletin