

# The Catholic Church In Seaford, Newhaven & Peacehaven | Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026



**Welcome to our community:** Welcome to our parish community on this **Second Sunday of Christmas**. As we continue to celebrate the joy of the Incarnation,

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**Thank you for your generosity:** I want to express a heartfelt thank you for the many very generous Christmas gifts and cards I have received. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in the Christmas collection. Each year, this collection helps to fund not only the costs associated with my ministry but also supports the visiting and retired clergy who faithfully celebrate Mass with and for us throughout the year. By way of information a priest celebrating a full weekend set of Masses receives £200, and a single midweek Mass £50. Your generosity enables us to welcome and support these priests, and it makes a real difference to parish life. Thank you for all that you do and give.

— *Deacon Stephen*

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**Epiphany Mass:** Holy Mass for the **Solemnity of the Epiphany** will be celebrated at **St Thomas More Church** on **Tuesday 6 January at 10:00am**. All are warmly invited to come and celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the nations.

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**Wonderful Christmas celebrations:** It was truly wonderful to welcome so many people into our churches over Christmas. Across our celebrations, **more than 750 people** gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ. What a blessing that is for our parish community.

Christmas does not simply happen. It is made possible by the quiet dedication and generosity of many people. My sincere thanks go to our musicians and singers, sacristans, florists, servers, cleaners, stewards, readers, and all who gave their time and energy behind the scenes. The list really does go on. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas celebrations prayerful, joyful, and welcoming.

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**Family of Faith** will meet next **Sunday 11 January at St Thomas More**, beginning at **10:45am**, before Holy Mass, and continuing through the afternoon. It will be a day of prayer, laughter, formation, and fun for all the family. Do come and join us. Everyone is welcome.

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**Requiescat in pace:** Please pray for all those who have died recently: **Cora Stinton, Anthony Burcombe, Allan Taylor, and Bernie Webster**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

## It takes a community | *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)*

From the very beginning, the Church was never something to watch from the sidelines. In the Acts of the Apostles we see a living, breathing community. People prayed together, shared what they had, served one another, and discovered joy in belonging. The apostles did not try to do everything themselves. They invited others to step forward, and the Church flourished.

That same story is still being written here. Our parish is sustained week by week by people who quietly and faithfully give of themselves. From welcoming at the door to cleaning, administration, music, work with families, visiting the sick, maintaining our buildings, and countless behind-the-scenes tasks, every act of service matters. Without this shared work, parish life would not happen.

Pope Francis reminds us that ***“the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone.”***

That welcome becomes real through the people who make it happen. Likewise, St Teresa of Ávila, wrote words that still challenge us today: ***“Christ has no body now but yours... yours are the hands with which he blesses the world.”***

Service is how Christ continues his work through us.

Volunteering is not about having endless time. It is about saying yes, in whatever way you can. It is about living our baptismal calling. Volunteering is often simply noticing where the Spirit is nudging us and responding.

Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, *The Word Who is Life*, speaks clearly about parish life being grounded in **prayer, formation, mission, and stewardship**. Volunteering touches all four. It grows out of prayer, is shaped by learning, directed towards service, and sustained by generous hearts. Through it, we grow as disciples and help build up the Body of Christ.

If you have ever wondered how you might help, felt a gentle nudge to get involved, or thought **“maybe I could do that”**, we invite you to respond.

### **Volunteer Sunday | 25 January**

After all Masses on **Sunday 25 January**, there will be an opportunity to sign up and find out more, either in person or via a QR code. Come and see how you might be part of the community God is shaping here. Your yes, however small it may feel, can make a real difference.

## Feast of the Epiphany | “Peace to this house, and to all who live here.” (Luke 10:5)

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, one of the oldest of all Christian feasts. Marking our doorways or front porch steps with blessed chalk is a centuries-old Epiphany custom and a visible way to dedicate our homes and the New Year to God.

The inscription this year is: **20 + C + M + B + 26**. “20” and “26” stand for the new year (2026). The plus signs represent the Cross. CMB are the first initials of the traditional names given to the Magi; Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin *Christus mansionem benedicat*, or “May Christ bless the house.”

To mark your home, you will need blessed chalk and the following prayers.

- ***As you prepare to mark the front door or porch, say the following prayer:***

*The Three Wise Men, Casper, Melchior and Balthasar, followed the star of God’s Son who became human 2,026 years ago. May Christ bless our home and be with us throughout the New Year. Amen.*

- ***Then, as you make the marks, offer the following prayer:***

*Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of Your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of Your love. Grant that we may manifest Your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of You. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*

**There are small bags of blessed chalk at the back of church for you this weekend.**



## Liturgy Schedule for the coming week:

**Holy Mass | Confession is available 30 minutes before Holy Mass**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas – pg116 in the new CTS missal**

- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 6pm, Seaford, *int: Joan Horden RIP*
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> January, 11am, Peacehaven, *int: People of the Parish*

**Midweek:**

- Tues 6<sup>th</sup> January, 10am, Seaford, *int: Ronald Hemmings RIP*
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm, Peacehaven, *int: Neville Wood RIP*
- Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> January, 10am, Seaford, *int: Sharpe family*

**The Baptism of The Lord – pg129 in the new CTS missal**

- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm, Peacehaven, *int: Sr Maria Kenny RIP*
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> January, 11am, Seaford, *int: People of the Parish*

**Morning Prayer:**

- Seaford | Mon – Fri 8.30am, Sat & Sun 9am. Peacehaven | Tues 9am.

**Evening Prayer:**

- Seaford | Mon – Fri 6:30pm. Peacehaven | Mon 6.30pm, Tue & Wed 6pm

**Adoration:**

- Seaford | Tue 10am (Vocation to Marriage and Family Life)
- Peacehaven | Mon 6pm (Vocations), Thurs 6pm (Pastoral Plan), Fri 10am

**Rosary:**

- Seaford | Sat 9.15am, Thurs 9.30am
- Peacehaven | Wed 9.30am, Fri 9.30am

**Benediction:**

- Seaford | Sunday 6pm
- Mass Intention envelopes are in the porch
- Christmas Offertory: £3,178.00

## A Prayer for the New Year

Loving God, bless our parish as we begin this new year. Strengthen our Families of Faith, and make our homes places of prayer, welcome, and love.

We thank you for Bishop Richard. Keep him in your grace and peace. Guide your Church as we seek the man you have chosen to be our next Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. Give wisdom to all involved and prepare our hearts to welcome him with faith and hope. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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