

The Catholic Church In Seaford, Newhaven & Peacehaven | Sunday 11th Jan 2026



Welcome to our Church on this joyful **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. If you are visiting for the first time, or returning after some time away, you are very welcome among us. Please do come and find me after Mass. I'd be glad to say hello. — *Deacon Stephen*

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord invites us to reflect on our **own baptismal vocation**. At his baptism, Jesus is named and revealed as God's beloved Son. In our baptism, the same pattern is set for us. We are **named, claimed, and sent**. Named as sons and daughters of God, claimed as members of Christ's Body, and sent to live the Gospel in ordinary, faithful ways. Baptism is not just something that happened once; it is a grace we are invited to live every day.

Family of Faith meets today after the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Our reflection focuses on **the Holy Family**. We are not looking at an idealised or "perfect" family, but a real one that lived with pressure, uncertainty, simplicity, and trust. In the hidden life of Jesus at Nazareth, we see holiness woven into ordinary routines, quiet faithfulness, and love expressed in small, daily acts. Our time together offers encouragement and hope, especially for parents carrying responsibilities, worries, and unseen sacrifices. The Holy Family reminds us

that holiness is found not in having everything sorted, but in faithful love, trust in God, and attentiveness to God's presence in everyday life.

An Invitation to Baptism: It is a joy to see more young families returning to parish life, and with that, more baptisms taking place. If you or your children have not been baptised, please do get in touch with Deacon Stephen and join one of our baptism preparation sessions. It would be great to meet you and walk with you at the start of this journey of faith.

Back to Normal: Despite Deacon Stephen being away this coming week, the full round of parish life resumes: prayer, hospital visiting, formation through RCIA, Confirmation and First Holy Communion preparation, meetings linked to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, and planning for the year ahead.

Please keep the parish in your prayers as we begin this new chapter together.

Requiescat in pace: Please pray for all those who have died recently, remembering, especially **Patrick Hodgkins**.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Pastor | Deacon Stephen Sharpe | stephen.sharpe@abdiocese.org.uk | 07545264492
PA | Lyndsey Gravenor | lyndsey.gravenor@abdiocese.org.uk | 01273 583046

It takes a community...and it always has. | *“Day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”*

— Acts 2:47

Last week we reflected on how parish life is built through community. This week we want to take that one step further, as part of our **volunteer recruitment drive**, and invite you to consider how you might play your part in the life of the parish today.

Our church communities grew from very small beginnings. Over the years they have been built, sustained, and carried forward by faithful people who quietly and generously gave their time to the Lord. People who welcomed, cleaned, prayed, read, served, organised, sang, prepared, unlocked, locked up, and did a hundred unseen things so that others could worship, belong, and grow in faith.

Many of us benefit today from the dedication of people from years gone by. Their generosity has shaped the parish we now enjoy. The question gently put before us is this: **how will the parish be sustained for the next generation?**

This Sunday we celebrate the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. At his baptism, Jesus steps into public ministry, not for his own sake, but for the life of the world. Our own baptism does something similar. It calls us not only to believe, but to belong and to serve. Part of our baptismal vocation is the offering of our **time, talents, and**

charisms for the good of the Body of Christ.

A healthy and well-balanced parish does not rest on a small number of people doing everything. It is sustained by teams of volunteers, each doing what they can, when they can. We are blessed with many wonderful people already serving, but we do need more. Not because something is failing, but because parish life is growing and changing, and because no one should feel they have to carry too much alone.

Ways you might get involved. There are many opportunities across parish life, including:

- Prayer and liturgy
- Welcome and hospitality
- Music and singing
- Children and family life
- Administration and organisation
- Care of our buildings and spaces
- Supporting the sick and housebound

Over the coming weeks we will highlight different areas.

This week, we focus on Prayer, at the heart of parish life

Prayer is the heartbeat of everything we do. There are many ways to support and deepen the prayer life of the parish.

You may notice **servers at every Mass**, young and old, male and female. Perhaps you served in the past and might like to return, or maybe your child would like to serve for the first time.

How about **reading at Mass**?

Proclaiming the Word of God is a real privilege, even if it feels a little daunting at first. Training and support are always given.

Some are called to serve as **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**, both at Mass and by taking Communion to those who are sick or housebound, often a lifeline of prayer and connection.

There is more besides:

- leading Morning or Evening Prayer
- helping coordinate times of Adoration
- leading the Holy Rosary
- preparing the church for prayerful celebrations
- serving as sacristan
- helping with cleaning and care of our sacred spaces.

Many of these things are quietly taken for granted because they have “always happened.” But they only happen because people step forward.

A gentle invitation: As you read this, you might find yourself thinking of people from your own past, those who worked tirelessly so that faith could be lived and celebrated. This is how parish life is handed on.

On **Sunday 25 January**, after all Masses in **both churches**, there will be an opportunity to **sign up to volunteer**, either in person or via a **QR code**. This is not a commitment to everything, but an invitation to begin a conversation.



Pastor | Deacon Stephen Sharpe | stephen.sharpe@abdiocese.org.uk | 07545264492
PA | Lyndsey Gravenor | lyndsey.gravenor@abdiocese.org.uk | 01273 583046

Liturgy Schedule for the coming week:

Holy Mass | Confession is available 30 minutes before Holy Mass

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

- Sat 10th January, 6pm, Peacehaven, *Int: Sr Maria Kenny RIP*
- Sun 11th January, 11am, Seaford, *Int: People of the Parish*

Midweek:

- Wed 14th January, 10am, Peacehaven, *Int: Deceased members of the Wood/Wilkinson Family*
- Wed 14th January, 12noon, Seaford, Requiem Mass: Tony Burcombe RIP
- Thurs 15th January, 10am, Seaford, *Int James O'Brien RIP*

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time – pg695 in the new CTS missal

- Sat 17th January, 6pm, Seaford, *Int: People of the Parish*
- Sun 18th January, 11am, Peacehaven, *Int: Aldo Memmo RIP*

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

Adoration instead of Benediction: Seaford | Sunday 6pm

Mass Intention envelopes are in the porch

Last week's offertory | Peacehaven £450, S/O £735 | Seaford £206.85

A Prayer for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Loving God, on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we give you thanks for all who have been baptised in our churches over the years. For every child, adult, and family, for every story of faith that began at the font, we praise you.

Through baptism we are named, called your beloved daughters and sons; we are claimed, marked with the sign of Christ; and we are sent, to live and serve in his name.

Renew in us the grace of our own baptism. Help us to live what we have received, to offer our gifts generously, and to build up the community of faith for those who will come after us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Safeguarding Reps: Julie O'Sullivan, 07735955821. Lyndsey Gravenor, 07483201055

Facebook: @catholicfaith.one. **Instagram:** catholic_faith.one. **Web:** catholicfaith.one

Registered Charity No. 252878