

# The Catholic Church In Seaford, Newhaven & Peacehaven | Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026



**Welcome to our Church on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary.** As we return to **Ordinary Time**, the Church settles into a season that is anything but ordinary. The colour changes to green, reminding us that this is a time for growth: steady, patient, and rooted. Ordinary Time gives us space to deepen habits of prayer, service, and faith in the middle of everyday life. No fireworks, just faithful living, one step at a time.

## Season of Lent | coming soon

Lent will be upon us before we know it, with **Ash Wednesday just a month away on 18th February**. Over the coming weeks, a small working party will begin planning for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. This is always a busy and deeply holy season for our parish. Please hold those involved in your prayers as they prepare for worship, reflection, and community events in these important weeks.

## A Time to Reflect: "At the Hour of Our Death" Round Table Session

Many people carry quiet worries and questions about death, dying, and how we support those we love. If that's you, you are not alone. You are warmly invited to a gentle, reflective round-table session with prayer, a short teaching, and time to listen and share on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 10am in the hall at St Thomas More**. We will draw on St John Henry Newman's *The Dream of Gerontius*, set to music by Elgar, allowing

the words and music to open space for reflection and conversation. It will be a quiet, unhurried morning, with a cup of something hot and a bit of cake. No preparation needed. Come as you are.

## An Open Door

We are keen to explore keeping the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady open during the day, offering a quiet space for prayer, rest, and reflection. To do this, we will need a small team willing to help with opening and closing at the beginning and end of each day. If you can help, even occasionally, please pass your details to **D. Stephen**.

## Incoming Skip

A reminder that a skip day is planned at the Immaculate Conception in January. This is the **last opportunity to remove any personal belongings** from the church stores before then. Thank you for your help and understanding.

**Circle of Friends** meets on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm. We have a speaker from Stella Maris talking about their ministry to the people of the sea. This group is open to everyone – do come along.

## Dates for your Diary:

7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Quiz and Fish and Chip – Peacehaven £12 per ticket  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Thursday Club starts fortnightly in Peacehaven 2pm -4pm

## Handing on the Faith...one small yes at a time | “*Day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*”

— **Acts 2:47**

In recent weeks we've been reflecting on volunteering in our parish: what it means, why it matters, and how each of us has something to offer. This week, I'd like to focus on one particular area where volunteering makes a lasting difference: **handing on the faith to the next generation.**

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Most of us did not come to faith on our own. Somewhere along the way there were parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers, catechists, friends, clergy, and parish communities who quietly helped shape our faith.

Often it wasn't through grand gestures, but through small, faithful acts: bringing us to Mass, saying prayers at home, answering questions, encouraging us, or simply showing us what it looks like to live as a Christian.

That chain of faith did not begin with us, and it is not meant to end with us either.

Over the past few years, we've seen real signs of hope through **Family of Faith** and our sacramental programmes. Families have returned to our communities.

Parents have reconnected with their own faith as they support their children preparing for **Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation**, and ongoing formation.

Children have begun to associate church not just with “something we go to”, but with people - who know them, welcome them, and care.

This does not happen by accident. It happens because ordinary parishioners say yes.

You do not need to be an expert theologian or have all the answers. What families and children need most are adults who are willing to walk alongside them: to listen, to encourage, to help create a space where faith can grow naturally and honestly.

Volunteering in this area doesn't have to mean a huge commitment every week.

For some, it might be helping occasionally with Family of Faith sessions. For others, supporting sacramental preparation, helping with practical arrangements, welcoming families, making tea, setting up a room, or simply being a friendly, familiar face. Small, regular contributions add up to something deeply significant.

When we help hand on the faith, we're not just passing on information. We're sharing a story that has shaped our lives. We're saying to the next generation: *you matter here; your questions matter; your journey matters.*

The Church often speaks of faith being "caught rather than taught." It's caught through relationships, through

example, and through communities where people are willing to give a little of their time so that others may discover something life-giving.

If you've ever wondered whether you have something to offer, the answer is yes. If you've ever thought, "I couldn't do much," you're probably exactly the kind of person who could.

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Over the coming weeks, we'll continue to invite people to get involved in ways that fit their lives and circumstances. For now, please hold this question gently in your heart: **who helped hand the faith on to you and how might you help pass it on to someone else?**

Even the smallest yes can help shape a lifetime of faith.

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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.



## Liturgy Schedule for the coming week:

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – pg.695 in the new CTS missal**

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

**Midweek:**

- **Mon 19<sup>th</sup> January, 11.30am, Seaford, Requiem Mass: Cora Stinton RIP**
- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> January, 10am, Peacehaven, *Int: Eileen Russell RIP*
- Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 10am, Seaford, *Int: Fr Alan Sharpe RIP*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (The Word of God) – pg.698 in the new CTS missal**

- Sat 24<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm, Peacehaven, *Int: People of the Parish*
- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> January 11am, Seaford, *Int: Ronald Hemmings 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

**Benediction:** Seaford | Sunday 6pm

**Mass Intention envelopes are in the porch**

**Last week's offertory | Peacehaven £190.58 - Holy Land £51.76- Crib £67.66**

**Seaford £439.78 - Holy Land £143.59**

**2nd Collection this week : Pax Christi**

**A Prayer | The handing on of the Faith**

**Loving God**, we thank you for those who first shared the gift of faith with us: parents, families, friends, and parish communities. Stir our hearts to pass on what we have received. Give us generosity with our time, patience with one another, and trust that even small acts of service matter. May our parish be a place where faith is lived, shared, and handed on, for the good of the next generation. **Amen.**

**As Ordinary Time unfolds, may this be a season of gentle growth for us all full of God's grace as we embrace the year ahead with open hearts and minds.**

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