

# SCARBOROUGH CATHOLIC PARISHES



CHURCHES OF ST PETER, ST JOSEPH, ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR



Part of the Middlesbrough Diocesan Trust: Reg. Charity No. 233748

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Welcome  
Benvenuto

Fáilte  
Bienvenu

Merĥba  
Bienvenido

Croeso  
Benvindo

Witajcie  
Benvinguts

Swagatam  
Beninguts

Mabuhay  
Wilkommen

WEEK COMMENCING 8 DECEMBER 2019  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

Bible Sunday  
Divine Office: Week 2

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – BIBLE SUNDAY

The **Second Sunday in Advent** has been adopted by the Catholic Church in this country as **Bible Sunday**. So it is especially fitting today to explore ways to celebrate the Church's special *Year of the Word: The God who speaks*, initiated to help Catholics get to know the Bible better. One way in which we can do that is through an Advent course designed by the Bishops' Conference in England and Wales, available on their website.

*"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."* (Hebrews 1:1-2)

**Advent - a time of preparation:** We are preparing for the arrival of the baby Jesus on Christmas morning – which the prophets had foretold and now becomes reality. The quotation (above) from the Letter to the Hebrews highlights how **God speaks throughout history but also in the present tense**, and this is at the heart of the *Year of the Word* initiative.

From the beginning of time, God speaks to his people:

- God speaks through signs and through his creation
- God speaks through prophets
- God speaks through witnesses
- God speaks into our lives

In Exodus, we find Israel being asked to make a tent so that God could dwell among his people (Exodus 25:8-9). In the Gospels, Mary becomes the new Ark of the new Covenant as Jesus dwells within her womb (Matthew 1:18-25). The Incarnation opens up the whole idea of God coming *into the world* and *dwelling among us*. At his recent canonisation, we were reminded of what John Henry Newman said about how he sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, but God declared: *"Go down again – I dwell among the people."*

As Catholics, we believe that Jesus is really present when we gather during the Mass – and when we gather together in twos or threes in his name (Matthew 18:20). In small faith sharing groups, we listen to him speaking to us in the Scriptures and we reflect on what he is saying in the light of the circumstances of our lives. We notice the times where we have encountered God—often in unexpected places and at unexpected times. And then, we respond by acting on what we have heard.

So this Advent, let us focus on preparing ourselves to welcome Christ when we encounter him in our daily lives, in the Sacraments and in the people we meet. Each evening, may we reflect on when God spoke to us that day and give thanks for recalling these precious moments.

The Advent Course designed by the Bishops' Conference in England and Wales is designed for groups but can also be used by individuals. A downloadable booklet is provided on the website at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/advent-course-2019/> (Please ask if you would like a printed copy). This is an excellent resource for groups and individuals within the parish. Do take a look. Use the free *Matthew: Day by Day Guide* provided last weekend or the **Gospel of Matthew** in your own copy of the Bible to help you reflect more deeply this December. May God speak to you this Advent, and may his Son, Jesus Christ dwell within your hearts this day and every day.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR YEAR OF THE WORD

*Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures. Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hope and fears and shows us how to live for one another. Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.*



## Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) "CHRIST CANDLE" – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

SATURDAY VIGIL	7	5.30pm	St Edward's	For Mass intentions see printed copy
SUNDAY	8	9.30am 9.30am 11.30am	St Peter's (Polish) St Joseph's St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	<b>BIBLE SUNDAY</b>
Monday	9	9.30am	St Joseph's	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY
Tuesday	10	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Wednesday	11	9.30am	St Peter's	(LIVE STREAM)
Thursday	12	9.30am	St Joseph's	
Friday	13	9.30am	St Peter's	(LIVE STREAM)
Saturday	14	9.30am	St Peter's	

**SEE SEPARATE LEAFLET FOR MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS & CHRISTMAS WEEK**

**SYRO-MALABAR MASS:** normally 3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm at St Edward's Church Avenue Victoria

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

(*CONFESSION TIMES*):

Saturdays	St Edward's	4.45pm - 5.15pm
Sundays	St Joseph's	9.15am - 9.45am
Saturdays	St Peter's	10am - 10.30am



**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:**

Tuesdays	St Edward's	5pm - 5.30pm
Wednesdays	St Peter's	10am - 3.30pm
Thursdays	St Joseph's	8.30am - 9.30am
Saturdays	St Peter's	10am - 10.30am



**CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Friday 13 December at St Peter's from 12 noon to 4pm (with visiting priests from Filey & Madonna House)  
 Thursday 19 December at St Joseph's from 12 noon to 3pm (with visiting priests from Filey & Madonna House)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION** (3 churches) Envelopes £498; Loose plate £740, Av. Standing Orders £524; Polish: £30; Total £1,792. Thank you, parishioners for your continued financial support each week.

**MASS ATTENDANCE** St Peter's (2 Masses) 191; St Joseph's 182; St Edward's 57; Polish (est) 100; Total: 530

†RECENTLY DEAD Irene Snow

†ANNIVERSARIES Brian Watson, Ted Porter, Declan Carney-Anderson, Joe Brennan, Aaron Ainsworth

MASSES RECEIVED FROM see printed copy

SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS see printed copy

300 CLUB WINNERS: No.108 £100. Congrats. To join, contact the parish office.

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES** are now available in a separate leaflet, available at back of church.

**YEAR OF THE WORD** (30 Sept 2019 to 31 Dec 2020). FREE HAND-OUTS have been made available to help us celebrate this very important year - *limited number only* - please take only if you intend to make use of them or give to someone else who will benefit. The **GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**; booklet **THE GOD WHO SPEAKS** (an intro to the Year of the Word and the Gospel of Matthew); small fold-out leaflet, **THE WORD IN 8 WORDS** (an evangelical tool to hand out to those who find it difficult to read the bible or who don't know where to start - or why). **This Sunday is BIBLE SUNDAY.**

**FREE ONLINE BIBLE RESOURCES** If the free hand-outs have run out, there are other valuable online resources. A Free e-book designed especially for the Year of the Word called **SON OF GOD: DAILY GOSPEL** is available for download at <http://www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/> More info on back of newsletter for this and other excellent resources.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL ADVENT LITURGY 7pm on Tuesday 10 December** at St Peter's Church. Pupils of St Augustine's are leading advent prayers. A beautiful way to celebrate advent, the service includes benediction.

**ST PETER'S SCHOOL NATIVITIES:** Foundation year - 10 Dec; Year 1 - 11 Dec; Year 2 - 12 Dec, all at 2pm at St Joseph's Church.

**MINCE PIES & CAROLS AT ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL 1.30pm Thursday 12 December.** The School invites all members of our parishes. Do go along. Pupils from the school will be giving out Invitations next weekend.

**LEGION OF MARY CHRISTMAS LUNCH 12.30pm Sat 14 Dec** in St Peter's Parish Centre

**ST PETER'S SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT 4pm on Tuesday 17 December** at St Joseph's Church Newby

**ST JOSEPH'S NATIVITY PLAY** by the Children's Liturgy: **Sunday 22 December** (4th Sunday of Advent) *during* Mass

**BLESSING OF ICONS Sunday 22 December** (4th Sunday of Advent) *after* Mass

**CHRISTMAS MASS & CONFESSION TIMES** are available in a separate leaflet, available at each church

## SACRAMENTS

**JOURNEY IN FAITH/RCIA/CONVERTS** continues **Fridays, 6.30pm** in St Peter's Parish Centre. There are **5 enquirers** with a support group of parishioners. Finish 13 Dec. until Jan.

**PARENTS & CATECHISTS MEETING FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 7pm on Thursday 12 December** in St Peter's School. **DATES** for the year ahead to be given. This meeting is also for **parents** with children in non-Catholic schools.

**FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION 2020 DATES** to help plan your diary: **First Confession: Tues 28 April: 5.30pm (1st Cohort) 6.15pm (2nd Cohort). Celebration of the Sacrament: Sunday 14 June (St Joseph's); Sunday 21 June (St Peter's).** Parents of children in **non-Catholic schools aged 9+** get in touch if you wish your child to be prepared outside of school hours in St Peter's Parish Centre by our team of Catechists. **It's time to start bringing your child to regular Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass.**

**FUNERAL SERVICE (Not Mass) of Irene Snow** (aged 86) of Postgate House, Victoria Road: **12 noon on Wednesday 11 December** at St Peter's Church.

**CAKE STALL FUNDRAISER Sunday 8 December after 11.30am Mass** in St Peter's Parish Centre, with refreshments & mince pies: *in aid of a family in desperate need.* Donations of cakes & mince pies please. We would be very grateful for your support.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL GOVERNORS MEETING Tuesday 10 December at 4pm.**

**ROSARY FOR THE UNBORN & FOR WORLD PEACE** before the Blessed Sacrament at St Peter's Church at **10.15am on Wednesday 11 December** (after morning Mass).

**UCM CHRISTMAS DINNER 12 for 12. 30 on Thursday 12 December** at South Cliff Golf Club. Wear something Christmassy

**ST JOSEPH'S REFRESHMENTS** resume after **Sunday Mass on 15 December.**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7pm on Wednesday 18 December** at Westborough Methodist Church. All school ensembles with guest performances. This is Mr Taylor's final concert as Head Teacher. Tickets from school or on the door. £5 adult £4 child.

**ST PETER'S 2020 MINISTERS' ROTA** Let the parish office know of any changes to be made to the 2020 Rota. **Ministers from the 5pm Mass are invited to join St Peter's 11.30am Rota.** Contact the parish office if you would like to do so, or if you would like to join the rota at one of our other churches.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS & CRIBS** on sale. ASK for **Religious stamps** at the Post Office.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD** Instead of *individual cards*, consider our environmentally friendly way to send Christmas wishes to fellow parishioners - sign the card and make a donation - **charity this year: Mary's Meals** for the Christmas Card and Tree donations (Crib donations to Friends of the Holy Land, as requested by the Bishop). Envelopes are provided for donations - place in the collection bag or cash box on the wall of St Peter's porch.

**2020 DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS** available at back of church - **£1** each. Lots of useful info including: important dates, parish and diocesan contact details, our schools, the clergy, priestly jubilees, religious communities, and a listing of the church liturgical cycle.

**SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS** Please indicate **which church** you wish the 7-day candle to burn at, and please indicate if the person is **deceased** or **living**.

**MASS INTENTIONS** We *often* receive duplicate requests for the same date. Masses are said on a first-come-first-served basis. It is advisable to book early and give an alternative date.

**ALL CHEQUES** should be made payable to "**St Peter's**" (Offerings, Donations, Special funds & Masses. Anything else written (eg. Restoration Fund) we may not be able to bank.

**ST PETER'S GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE** is now available for Burial of Ashes (note: ashes only): The fee for this is **£100**. Cheques payable to St Peter's.

**RETIRING COLLECTION** at all churches next weekend for **Flowers for Christmas.**

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS CEILIDH** is **CANCELLED** - only 1 ticket sold.

**3 WAYS TO PUT CHRIST BACK INTO CHRISTMAS** • Only Send religious Christmas cards • Ask for religious Christmas stamps at the Post Office • Display your family crib in the front window. [Remember, too, the environmental cost of Christmas]

## ECUMENICAL & NON-PARISH EVENTS

**GENERAL ELECTION** Make sure you exercise your right to vote by voting in the election this coming **Thursday 12 December**. 18 million *didn't* vote last time.

**WHERE DOES YOUR CANDIDATE STAND ON ASSISTED SUICIDE?** It only takes 30 seconds to find out. Go to <https://righttolife.org.uk/endoflife>

**CAROLS ON THE GREEN** at St Andrew United Reform Church, Ramshill Road, **1pm on Saturday 14 Dec.** All very welcome. Refreshments & mince pies afterwards.

**SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN SCARBOROUGH 7pm on Tues 10 Dec** at Quaker Meeting House, Woodlands Drive: A speaker from the *Refugee Council* will give a short talk.

## FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**Monday 9 December**

*"Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). And Mary's heart was fully disposed to the fulfilment of the divine will. This is why the Blessed Virgin is the model of Christian expectation and hope... In her heart there is no shade of selfishness: she desires nothing for herself except God's glory and human salvation. For her, the very privilege of being preserved from original sin is not a reason to boast, but one for total service to her Son's redemptive mission."* (From an Angelus address of St John Paul II)

## EMMAUS BIBLE GROUP

*"Did not our hearts burn within us as He explained the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)*

Why not try something new for *THE YEAR OF THE WORD* and come to the Emmaus group which meets fortnightly on **Thursdays at 2pm** in St Edward's Hall to share prayerfully the scripture readings for the forthcoming Sunday. An ecumenical group of some years' standing, we look to deepen our faith in and understanding of Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you want to really understand a book, meet the author! Our last meeting this year is on **19 December** and we begin again on **9 January**. St Jerome tells us: *"Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ."*



**THE RAINBOW CENTRE** is appealing for (non-perishable) donations - **especially for men's clothing.** Drop items off there. The colder months are a particularly challenging time of year for the homeless, in various ways.

**ADVENT COURSE: GIFTS DIFFERING** Using Myers Briggs Personality types as a means to more fruitful personal prayer **over 4 Saturdays** beginning **30 Nov, 2-4pm** in St Edward's Hall (*confidentiality assured*). Participants **must commit to all 4 Saturdays.** *Names to list in porch* - Max 20. Info from John McGlinchey on 373812 (for all faiths & non)



## FAMILY BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE:

All make the sign of the cross †

**Leader:** Our help is in the name of the Lord. **All:** Who made heaven and earth.

Leader reads a text of sacred Scripture (suitable examples: Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15)).

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is **God-with-us** and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. **All:** Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Today (8 December) is Bible Sunday. The Holy Bible is unmatched in importance for learning about God, His plans for us, and how he has worked through human history for our salvation. Here are 3 essential points to help you understand the Bible:

- **God is the principal author of Sacred Scripture.** If there is only one thing you remember, let it be this point! God chose to reveal certain truths for the sake of our salvation. This message is the set of Revealed Truths which we call the *Deposit of Faith* or *Divine Revelation*. The Bible is primarily concerned with telling us these truths, which are without error. God himself made sure of that.
- **God made use of specific people to write the Bible.** God did not “dictate” the Bible word for word. He made use of specific people in time, from Old Testament to New Testament times: Moses, the Prophets, the Evangelists, the Apostles and, of course, His Son, Jesus. Some texts were either written soon after being divinely received, and some were passed on in by Oral Tradition and written down at a much later date.
- **We should work carefully to determine accurately the truths asserted by the Sacred Authors.** Despite human limitations, the Holy Spirit guided each author to write in a way that was natural to him. This made it possible for the people of those times and cultures to understand, while passing on to future generations for all time, God’s absolute and transcendent message. Language and culture changes over time, and the imperfections of human language and knowledge can sometimes veil our understanding of what God wants to tell us. It is important to know this if we are not to risk serious misunderstanding of the texts.



“My people perish from a lack of knowledge” Hosea 4-

## UNLOCKING THE ORIGINAL MEANING

First, learn to understand exactly what the inspired authors meant when they wrote their words. This is essential. If you don’t understand what the sacred author was saying to people in his own cultural context, in terms as they were used at the time, you won’t be able to clearly see what God is saying through him. A good Catholic commentary will help explain any relevant language, concepts and cultural references. But don’t worry! Many passages are quite easy to grasp.

## EMBRACE THE WORD OF GOD

The **whole point** of reading and understanding the Bible is to encounter God, understand the Revelation he has given us, and to grow in faith. So, once you’ve read a passage of Scripture and understand what the author is saying...take that next step - **listen** to God! Scripture is a living thing, meant for people in all times & places. God speaks through it **now** just as much as He did when it was written. To help our faith grow as we read Scripture, the Church gives us three important points:

- **Be especially attentive “to the content and unity of the whole Scripture.** It all fits together, so don’t just look at parts in isolation.
- **Read the Bible within “the living Tradition of the whole Church”,** since the Holy Spirit guides the Church in interpreting Scripture. Especially helpful is seeing how the Saints, Popes, and Church councils have commented on Scripture.
- **Pay attention to the coherence of the truths of faith** among themselves and within the whole plan of Revelation” Like point #1, above, the entire deposit of faith forms a *wonderful unity* – Church teaching sheds light on Scripture, and Scripture on Church teaching.

Some feel intimidated when they start to read Scripture. But **not** you! Now you have a solid foundation for understanding the Bible. **So, start reading!**

Access the full 73 books of the Catholic Bible online at [www.catholic.org/bible/books\\_bible.ph](http://www.catholic.org/bible/books_bible.ph) or many of the other excellent online resources – see last week’s newsletter for links.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS: DECEMBER:

*That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.*

## THE LECTIONARY (Lectio = to read)

This year marks the **50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Revised Lectionary**, which contains the **3-year cycle** of readings for Mass, which gave us a richer access to sacred Scripture. “The present structure of the Lectionary not only presents the more important texts of Scripture with some frequency, but also helps us to understand the **unity of God’s plan** thanks to the **interplay of the Old and New Testament readings**, an interplay ‘in which **Christ is the central figure**, commemorated in his paschal mystery’.” (Benedict XVI: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* §57).

**SCARBOROUGH PARISHES BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE** Special sheets & envelopes available in porches - give *precise details* for entry into the Book: **Name, date or month of birth, date of death, Name of Donor & contact phone number.** Names can include deceased from other parishes and non-Catholics. Suggested donation **£10 per entry**

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

**Don’t forget to use the GIVING MACHINE link when doing your Christmas shopping online.**

**Fundraising has never been so easy.**

The Giving Machine is a simple but powerful idea: Giving is made **free and easy**

- You buy something at an online shop via TheGivingMachine
  - Your purchase automatically generates a sales commission \*\*
  - The Giving Machine turns the commission you’ve generated into a charitable donation and passes it on to your chosen cause.
- \*\* commission on your purchase is generated anyway, but is normally given to a marketing company. Wouldn’t you rather it benefit a charitable cause? **To register** go to [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) and please select **Scarborough Catholic Parishes** as your chosen cause.

**SUNDAY SMILE:** *We often hear: “Life is short... better enjoy it!”*

*How about, “Eternity is long, better prepare for it”!*