

SCARBOROUGH CATHOLIC PARISHES



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



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

Parish Priest: Canon Edmond Gubbins (St Peter's)

St Joseph's Presbytery
1 Greyland's Park Grove, YO12 6HT
Enquiries to St Peter's

St Peter's Rectory
Castle Road, YO11 1TH
Tel: 01723 360358

St Edward The Confessor
Avenue Victoria, YO11 2QS
Enquiries to St Peter's

Website: <https://www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk/>

Email: scarboroughcatholicparishes@rcdmidd.org.uk or Email: scarboroughcatholicparishes@gmail.com

Polish Mission only: Fr Mariusz Gutowski 01482 341472 www.pcmew.org/parafia/hull/



WEEK COMMENCING 20 DECEMBER - YEAR B
DIVINE OFFICE: *Week 4*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

POPE FRANCIS: THE 'LIVING GOSPEL' OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter for Christmas, *Admirabile signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*. He signed it during his visit last Sunday to the Italian town of Greccio, the mountain village where **St Francis of Assisi** created the **first crib** scene in **1223**. The Latin title of the Letter refers to the “*enchanting image*” of the Christmas crèche, one that “*never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus’ birth*”, the Pope tells us, “*is a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God*”.

A Living Gospel: The nativity scene “*is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture*”. Contemplating the Christmas story is like setting out on a spiritual journey. So great is His love for us, writes the Pope, “*that He became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with Him*”. Pope Francis recalls the Gospel origin of the Christmas crèche: “*Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal Himself as ‘the bread come down from heaven’.*” The nativity scene “*evokes a number of the mysteries of Jesus’ life and brings them close to our own daily lives*”. It moves us so deeply because it shows God’s tender love. It invites us to “*feel’ and ‘touch’ the poverty that God’s Son took upon Himself in the Incarnation*”, writes the Pope. “*It asks us to meet Him and serve Him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need.*”

The meaning of the crèche elements: The background of a **starry sky** “*wrapped in the darkness and silence of night*” reminds us of when we have experienced the darkness of night, yet even then, God does not abandon us. “*His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering.*” **Landscapes** often include ancient ruins or buildings, which are “*the visible sign of fallen humanity*” that Jesus has come “*to heal and rebuild*”.

The shepherds, “*unlike so many other people, busy about many things... become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation, which they greet with love, gratitude and awe.* The presence of the **poor and the lowly** reminds us that “*Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.*” Often Nativity scenes show figures unrelated to the event (eg. Baker, musicians, women carrying water jugs, children at play. “*All this speaks of everyday holiness, the joy of doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way.*”, the Pope tells us.

Focussing on **Mary and Joseph and the Infant Jesus**, Pope Francis tells us “*Mary is a mother who contemplates her child and shows Him to every visitor... in her, we see the Mother of God who does not keep her Son only to herself, but invites everyone to obey His word and to put it into practice.* St Joseph stands by, “*protecting the Child and His Mother.*” He is the guardian, the just man, who “*entrusted himself always to God’s will.*” But it is when we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, that the nativity scene comes alive. “*It seems impossible, yet it is true: in Jesus, God was a child, and in this way, He wished to reveal the greatness of His love: by smiling and opening His arms to all.*”

The Three Kings: As the Feast of Epiphany approaches, we add the Three Kings to the Christmas crèche. “*The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route*”, but returning home, they tell others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, “*thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations*” and reminding us that this is our duty as Christians, too.

Transmitting the faith: The Christmas crèche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith, concludes Pope Francis. “*It teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God’s love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with Him.*” Memories of visiting the Christmas crèche as children should remind us “*of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren*”. It does not matter how the nativity scene is arranged, “*what matters is that it speaks to our lives.*”

Do consider reading the full Apostolic letter. It is only short, and it is well worth reading. Go to www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html (We can print a copy if you don't have online access)



Pope visits place of first Nativity Scene, in Italian town of Greccio

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 20 DECEMBER 2020 **4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
PUBLIC MASSES HAVE NOW RESUMED (NO MASSES FOR NOW AT ST EDWARD'S)

SATURDAY VIGIL	19	5.30pm	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
SUNDAY	20	9.30am 9.30am 11.30am	St Joseph's St Peter's (Polish) St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	ADVENT 3RD SUNDAY For Mass intentions see printed copy
Monday	21	7pm	St Peter's	St Peter Canisius
Tuesday	22	10am	St Josephs	
Wednesday	23	10am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	St John Kanty
Thursday	24	9.30am 11.30am 5pm 7.30pm 12 midnight	St Joseph's St Peter's (Live Stream) St Peter's (Stream) CHRISTMAS EVE St Joseph's St Peter's (Live Stream)	
Friday	25	9.30am 9.30am 11am	St Joseph's CHRISTMAS DAY St Peter's (Polish) (Live Stream) St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
Saturday	26	St Stephen	NO MORNING MASS (Mass at 5.30pm)	

SYRO MALABAR MASS December Mass – 3.30pm on Sunday 27 December

CONFESSIONS CHRISTMAS EVE St Joseph's after 9.30am Mass; St Peter's 10.30-11.30am (with Fr Mark from Madonna House)
ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT 30 minutes before each weekday Mass (except Christmas Day & Boxing Day)

STREAMED MASSES IN OUR PARISH <https://www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk/> click link at right of screen
READINGS AT MASS & Daily Prayer of the Church: QR Code Links are available on our website & in church porches
POPE'S DECEMBER PRAYER INT: *that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God & a life of prayer*
OUR LADY'S SHRINE at St Peter's church is **open every day** (gate closed but unlocked - down steps. see the new sign on wall)

† **ANNIVS** Brenda Stephenson, Julie Fearon, Elaine Belamy, Joseph & Margaret Collins, Edmond Gubbins † **R DEAD** Paul Roberts
ATTENDANCE St Peter's Vigil 24; Polish 75; St Joseph's 9.30am 64; St Peter's 11.30am 67; **Total 230**
OFFERINGS Loose plate £373; Gift Aid envelopes £305; Polish £30; Av. Standing Orders £614; **Total £1,322**
PLANNED GIVING To sign up for *Offertory Envelope or Standing Order giving*, contact the Parish office.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER (for those shielding at home and joining us on livestream)

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart and soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

REQUIEM MASS of Joan Ramsden: 1pm on Monday 21 December at St Joseph's - family only

FUNERAL SERVICE of Paul Rodgers: 11.45am on Tuesday 22 December at St Peter's - family only

MASSES CHRISTMAS WEEKEND (No Boxing Day morning Mass) Sat 26th 5.30pm at St Peter's; Sun 27th 9.30am at St Joseph's & 11.30am at St Peter's. Obligation for Holy Days is **still suspended**, so try to get to **one** Mass over the Christmas period.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, you are **encouraged** to mark Christmas in a **variety of ways this year**, eg. visit the crib in church for private prayer (especially with children), follow the readings and reflections for Advent & Christmas, have a Christmas Nativity corner at home, light Advent candles, fill your home with holy Christmas music. The important thing is to keep Christ at the very centre of Christmas celebrations.

PARISHES 2021 CALENDARS available next weekend – order yours by email or tel. **£1 each. Proceeds to the Rainbow Centre**

DO NOT leave Christmas Cards for fellow parishioners. Handling is a Covid-19 risk. Give to people direct. Cards left will be disposed of.

ONLINE BOOKINGS Some of you have **not** received a confirmation email. It might have gone into **Spam or another email folder**. If the Online Booking Portal confirmed your booking, then you will be booked. **Do not attempt to book again** as your booking will be duplicated.

CANCELLATIONS If you have booked but have changed your mind, please let us know so we can free up your place(s) for others

CHRISTMAS MASSES - PLEASE BE PATIENT as Stewards try to seat you. Seats for prebooked Christmas Masses will be allocated in advance. Please give your name and members of your group on arrival. Those who booked as a group in one single booking will automatically be grouped together for seating. We cannot guarantee this for those who made more than one booking for members of their group/family.

MESSAGE from St Augustine's School Chaplain: We really missed not being able to lead the parish in our Advent Liturgy this year, so we have put together a short service of readings and carols to share with everyone. Go to the parish Facebook page for the link. Wishing you God's peace and joy.

MEETING FOR STEWARDS/ USHERS for St Peter's (Wednesday after Mass) & St Joseph's Tuesday after Mass in Church

POPPY APPEAL St Peter's raised £105; St Joseph's £55 and St Edward's £13. **Total £173.** Thank you, on behalf of the British Legion.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2021 on Sale **£1.** Useful information about parishes and schools etc in the diocese.

"SHARE THE LIGHT" CAMPAIGN Christians of all denominations in the United Kingdom are encouraged to *share the light of hope* from **21 December** by displaying a light in their windows and continue to light it until Christmas Day.

CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS. See times listed above. **CAFOD WORLD GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS** Take a leaflet

7 DAY CANDLES of Remembrance: You are invited to light one for a loved one this Christmas. **£3 each** at Our Lady's Altar

SUNDAY SMILE: *Q. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their Conference Call? A. Because there was no Zoom at the Inn.*