

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 Fáilte Merfha Croeso Witajcie Swagatam Mabuhay
Benvenuto Bienvenu Bienvenido Benvindo Benvinguts Wilkommen

WEEK COMMENCING

10 JANUARY 2021 - YEAR B

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

DIVINE OFFICE: *Week 1*

The Baptism of Christ (c.1460) by Italian Renaissance master Piero della Francesca (1415-1492), now housed in the National Gallery, London, was painted as an altarpiece for the chapel of St John the Baptist in the communal church of the Camaldolese monks, a contemplative hermit order, in his native town of Borgo San Sepolcro in Tuscany. One Sacrament, that of Baptism, is shown at the moment of its foundation, in an image to go above the altar, and so preside over the other Sacrament, the Mass. The Sacred body, in which God dwells, central to both Sacraments, is placed with exact centrality. His holy being is washed for His holy work of Redemption.

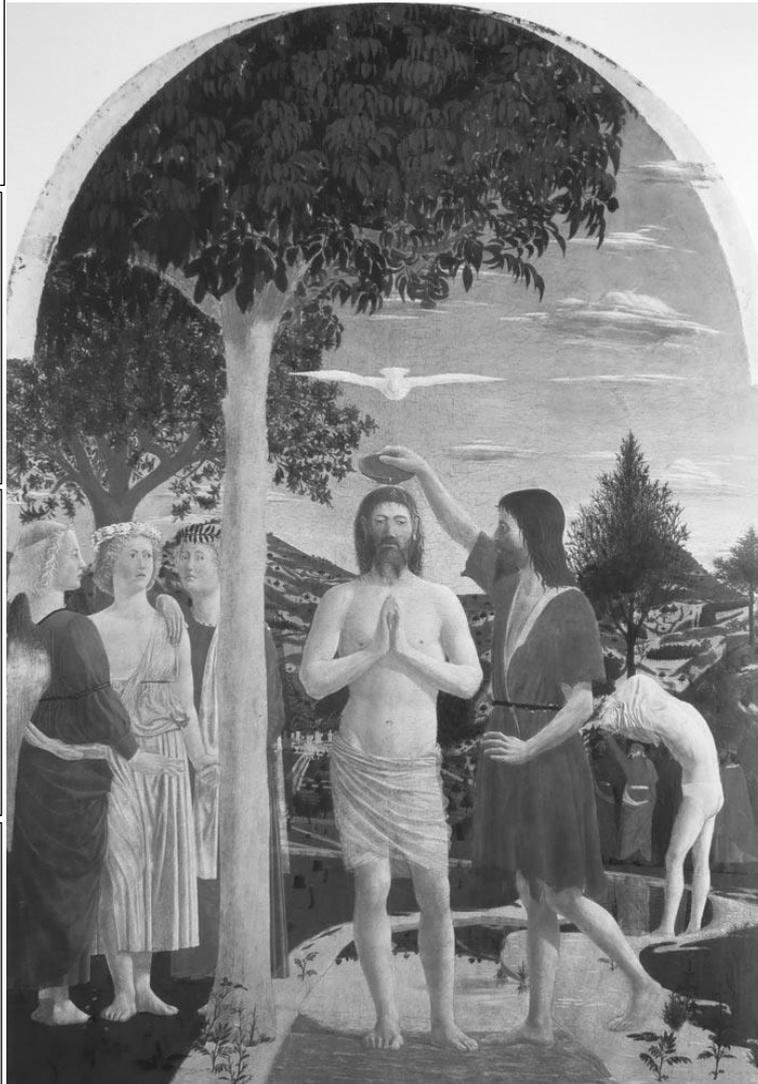
This is an image of contrast in two halves. The axis of it all is Christ, placed as He is between the left side of 'stillness & calm', and the right side, of 'business & activity'. The dove expresses both action and stillness in its hovering, adding to the contrast of stillness and activity in the image.

We are addressed by the solid grace of *Christ's luminous body* which stands isolated from the other grouped and overlapping figures. By His sacrificial death, the life of the isolated one becomes the life of the many. Christian baptism is a separation – a ritual death which is a passing-over into new life.

Jesus is *naked*, apart from His loincloth, as He will be when His sacrifice is consummated on the cross.

Jesus gazes down. His posture is prayerful as He ponders the meaning of His anointing and His sacrificial destiny that His naked vulnerability suggests.

This is also an image with a vertical dynamic. All the figures are standing. The tree in the foreground runs from the bottom to the top of the image, connecting earth with the heavenly realm, as Baptism connects the human with the divine.



Christ's *feet* are placed where the water of the stream changes from calm mirror of the hills, to shallow and stony. It is a moment of transition from death to life. Although naked, as he will be at His death, to which Baptism commits Him, the pink cloak left with the angel will clothe His resurrected body - Piero clothes Jesus in the same pink cloak in a fresco in the nearby town hall, of Jesus rising omnipotent from the tomb.

This impressive *tree* is firmly rooted in the ground, while its lofty crown arches like a canopy over Christ's Body, and over the central action of the image. Its leaves point from heaven downwards, as if metaphorically declaring, "*Thou art my Belovèd Son, in whom I am well pleased*".

The *dove* descends upon Jesus, as told in Scripture (Matthew 13:17) and, with the tree, further emphasises the downward motion of the divine anointing, and completing the presence of the Holy Trinity.

On the right a man pulls on his shirt after he has been baptised. His flesh tone matches that of Jesus, a clear indication that this man, in his humanity, is now joined to Christ. Notice the diagonal dynamic from St John's baptising hand, through his arm and down into the man's arched torso. Rising behind this man, a tree points sharply towards the heavens, indicating the divine destiny of those who are untied to Christ through Baptism.

Behind the bending man are 4 *Pharisees and Sadducees* who, according to Matthew 3:7, were present at John's baptisms and were denounced by him. They are heavily clothed. They were only there to "inspect" the goings-on, believing themselves to have no need of baptism.

SATURDAY VIGIL	9	5.30pm	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
SUNDAY	10	9.30am 9.30am 11.30am	St Joseph's St Peter's (Polish) St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	For Mass Intentions see printed copy
Monday	11	7pm*	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
Tuesday	12	12 noon*	St Edward's* <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	
Wednesday	13	10am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM) <i>St Hilary</i>	
Thursday	14	10am	St Joseph's	
Friday	15	10am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
Saturday	16	10am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	

SYRO MALABAR MASS No Masses until after National Lockdown has ended

CONFESSIONS 10.30am to 11am Saturdays at St Peter's; **8.45am to 9.15am Sundays** at St Joseph's
ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT 30 minutes before each *weekday* Mass

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 JANUARY PRAYER INT: *that the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.*

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** Callum Byrne, Nita O'Brien, Philomena Doody (*birth anniv*)

† **RECENTLY DEAD:** Paul Lawson, Nellie Droogan (Omagh aged 100), Dominica Carrossa, Frank Smith

MASSES RECEIVED FROM: see printed copy

ATTENDANCE St Peter's Vigil **21**; St Joseph's 9.30am **66**; Polish **73**; St Peter's 11.30am **67**; **Total 221.** New Year's Day **99**

EPIPHANY ATTENDANCE St Peter's Vigil **20**; St Joseph's 10am **32**; St Edward's 12 noon **18**; St Peter's 7pm **25**

OFFERINGS Loose plate **£505**; Gift Aid envelopes **£473**; Polish **£30**; Av. Standing Orders **£614**; Total **£1,622**

PLANNED GIVING To sign up for *Offertory Envelope or Standing Order giving*, contact the Parish office.

A NEW YEAR PRAYER *Lord, thank you for the new year, for all the potential it holds. Help us daily to walk in your presence. Fill us with the light of Christ. Bless with good health, patience and gentleness, kindness & help us to live by your commandments Amen.*

MASS TIMES Pay a close eye on the times and venues of weekday Masses.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD There will be a **roll call** at the 11.30am Mass at St Peter's of all baptised in 2020 (20 in total). Also, we as a congregation, will renew our own Baptism vows at all Masses this weekend.

HOLY WATER to be blessed at Masses today. Take some Holy Water home and bless your homes and family with this prayer:

HOUSE BLESSING *O Lord, make this house a home; May love and protection dwell deep within its walls, and may peace and harmony reign. May all who enter its doors find comfort, solace and friendship. Through Christ our lord Amen*

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH Some prayer cards to St Joseph are on sale in the Holy shop at St Peter's and St Joseph's.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY Mon 18 to Sun 24 Jan, **Theme: Abiding in Christ.** Due to Covid-19 celebrations will mainly be online this year. Resources available, inc. reflections, from <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>
54TH WORLD DAY OF PEACE is next **Sunday 17 January** - Pax Christi's celebration of the Holy Father's World Peace Day message for Peace Sunday. More information on resources in next week's newsletter.

PARISHES 2021 CALENDARS **£1 each (large print £2).** Proceeds to the **Rainbow Centre.** Lots of photos from the past year, as well as an article on St Joseph's Church, as 2020 marked the 60th anniversary, and also the beginning of a Jubilee Year of St Joseph. There is a sample copy at the back and a list to add your name and how many. 37 ordered so far.

FOGGING MACHINE & SANITISING FLUID for St Joseph's has now been ordered, at a cost of **£560** Donations welcome towards the cost. Cheques payable to **St Peter's, Church** please.

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

7 DAY CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE: Light one for loved ones at New Year. **£3** at Our Lady's Altar

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA (AoS) Retiring collection last weekend raised **£142** for the work of AoS in helping seafarers.

HANDS/ FACE/ SPACE Continue to cooperate with our Ushers and Stewards so that our churches remain safe places for Mass. If any of you are anxious about Covid-19, or have a health condition, not to come to church - shield at home.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR SCARBOROUGH 9am Sat 23rd January & every 2nd Saturday, by Zoom only until further notice, due to Lockdown. Zoom details from wrotekimberlee@gmail.com, or pray at home if you cannot access Zoom.

CAFOD are looking for parish volunteers to help share updates with the parish and enable our parish community to take action on issues of human rights, social justice, climate action & appeals. You would be supported by Diocesan CAFOD worker, Carol Cross. Contact her for more details ccross@cafod.org.uk or sign up at www.cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Sign-up



After the Three Wise Men left, the Three Wiser Women arrived.