



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)

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WEEK COMMENCING 9 JANUARY 2022 YEAR C
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
DIVINE OFFICE: Week 1

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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.

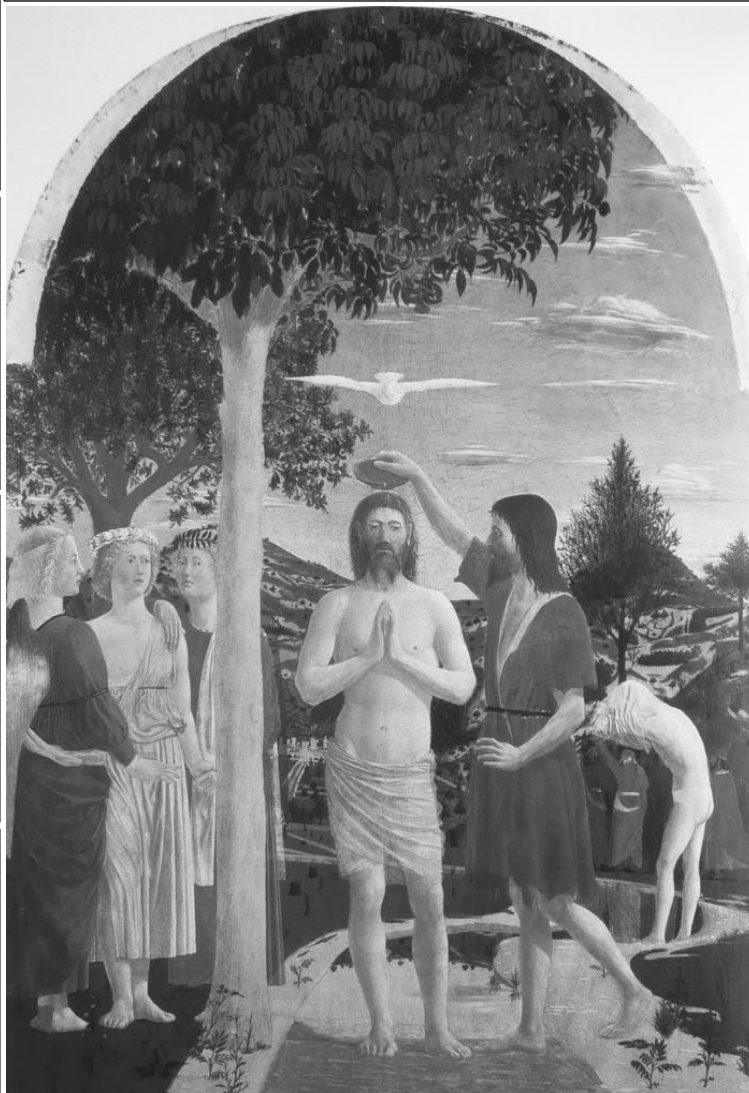
This is an image of **contrast in two halves**. The axis of it all is Christ, placed as He is between the left side of 'stillness & calm', and the right side, of 'business & activity'. The dove expresses both action and stillness in its hovering, adding to the contrast of stillness and activity in the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

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**.

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.

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	8	5.30pm	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
Sunday	9	9.30am	St Joseph's	FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD For Mass intentions see printed copy
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
Monday	10	10am	St Joseph's	1st Week of Ordinary time
Tuesday	11	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Wednesday	12	10am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	St Aelred of Rievaulx
Thursday	14	10am	St Joseph's	St Hilary
Friday	15	10am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	
Saturday	16	10am	St Peter's (LIVE STREAM)	

MALAYALAM MASS is monthly - normally **2pm** on the **3rd Sunday** of the month at St Edward's Church

CONFESSIONS Saturdays **10.30-11am** at St Peter's; **Sundays 9-9.20am** and **Mondays 9.30-9.55am** at St Joseph's. Or by request.

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT 30 minutes before Mass weekday Mass (St Peter's); 1 hour before (St Joseph's)

DEVOTIONS **Rosary:** Weekdays after Mass, St Peter's; **Stations of the Cross:** Fridays after morning Mass at St Peter's; **Sacred Heart Litany:** Fridays after morning Mass & Stations at St Peter's; **Divine Mercy Devotions:** Fridays 2.50pm in St Peter's Church

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD at St Peter's & St Joseph's: **1st Sunday of month.** Children only

READINGS AT MASS & Daily Prayer of the Church: Link available on our website

OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL SHRINE at St Peter's is open (gate is unlocked). Take a *free* medal.

JANUARY PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER: *We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family*

† **RECENTLY DEAD** Susan Mencer, Francis Towell (Norfolk), Manuel Lopez Blanco (America); † **ANNIVS:** Callum Byrne, Collette Bacon, Barbara Baker, Susan Taylor; † **SANCTUARY LAMP** Dedication St Peter's: *Christopher Wyatt*

MASS COUNT: New Year's Day: St Peter's **61**(am); **Sat. Vigil** St Peter's **63**; **Sunday** St Joseph's **80**; St Peter's **130**; **Epiphany 101**

OFFERINGS: Loose plate **£408**; Gift Aid env's **£419**; Polish **£30**; Av. Standing orders **£672**; **Total £1,529**

300 CLUB WINNER: £100 – No.60; New members speak to Bob Stankiste, Louis Sylvestre or Rob Palmer. £1p/wk

MEMORIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING for the work and life of Doctor Isabella Deri Pitts: **12 noon on Wednesday 19 January** at St Joseph's. All invited. Dr Pitts died in Leeds in April 2021.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD is this **Sunday 9 January**. This brings the Christmas Season to a close. We begin the First Week in Ordinary Time - readings from **Weekday Cycle 2** and Gospel Readings this year are from the **Gospel of St Luke** (Year C).

WELCOME all the children and adults baptised in 2021 and their families to St Peter's Sun.11.30am Mass. 39 in total were baptised.

BLESSING OF HOLY WATER this weekend Masses. Take some home and bless your home, and place the blessing below above your door.

UCM JANUARY MEETING is cancelled due concerns over sickness & viruses. Next meeting **Tue 15 Feb**, all being well.

CRAFT GROUP next meeting is **1-4pm on Tuesday 18 January** in St Peter's Parish Centre.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL is next **Sunday 16 Jan** (Peace Sunday). There will be a second collection for the work of SPUC

2022 READERS ROTAS for St Peters (Vigil & Sunday) and St Joseph's are available in sacristies. Please collect yours. Read carefully.

CLIMATE TALK via Zoom **Sat 15 Jan 11am-12.30pm:** 'Climate Change, Arms and Conflict: What does security mean in a time of climate crisis?' from Pax Christi, the Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission. All welcome. Email to register: bhungin@yahoo.co.uk

7 DAY CANDLE AT ST PETERS CHURCH Light at Our Lady's altar for loved at Christmas - **£3**. You can write a personal note.

RED SANCTUARY LIGHT DEDICATIONS available for loved ones at each church. Suggested donation **£3**.

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS 2022 are available at back of each church, price **£1**. This contains valuable information about parishes, priests, schools, and other organisations across the diocese, as well as the full liturgical calendar. Well worth picking up a copy.

2022 PARISH CALENDAR available (samples at our churches). Email, phone or add your name to the list. **£2 each**, or **£4 large**.

2022 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: RCIA retreat day **Sat 5 Feb**; Rite of Election **3pm Sun 6 March** (Middlesbrough Cathedral);

Chrism Mass **Tue 12 Apr** (Middlesbrough Cathedral); Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage **30 May to 3 June**; Postgate Rally **Sun 3 July**;

Assumption Pilgrimage **Sun 14 Aug**; Ministers' Inspirational Day **10 Sept**; Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage weekend **1-2 October**

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS (standard rate unless stated otherwise): Diocesan Safeguarding Office 01642 850505; Domestic Abuse helpline 0808 2000247; SOS (Suicidal helpline) 0300 1020 505; Pregnancy& Abortion 0808 802 5433; Rachel's Vineyard (Abortion healing) 07734 059 080; Samaritans (24 hr) 116 123 or Text SHOUT to 85258; Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177650; Talk to Frank (drug abuse) 0300 1236600; Dementia Connect Helpline 0333 150 3456; or visit Find a Helpline for listings of many other organisations <https://helplines.org/helplines/>

SUNDAY SMILE: *Question. How do you make Holy Water? Answer. Boil the hell out of it!*

CHURCH SYNODALITY It order to respond to Pope Francis's call to participate in the build-up to the Synod in Rome in 2023, a **Scarborough Parish Meeting on 7pm on Thurs 13 Jan in St Peter's Parish Centre**. Our discussion will focus on these questions.

1) How can the local Church be more fully a "communion" in which all its members participate, and how can it more effectively offer the world the much-needed message of Christ? 2) Do I participate in Parish activities? Could I do more? Are there things I would like to do in the parish? 3) Does the Parish spread the message of the Gospel to the rest of Scarborough? How do you see this happening now? How could we do better? 4) How do I visualise my ideal Parish? 5) What strength do you find in your faith &

EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR THE HOME 20 + C + M + B + 22

May Christ bless this house and dwell therein throughout the year