

# 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 Joseph's Presbytery  
1 Greyland's Park Grove, YO12 6HY

St Peter's Rectory  
Castle Road, YO11 1TH

St Edward the Confessor  
Avenue Victoria, YO11 2QS

Tel: 01723 360358 • Email: [scarboroughcatholicparishes@gmail.com](mailto:scarboroughcatholicparishes@gmail.com) • Website: [www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk](http://www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk)

29 SEPTEMBER 2024 – 26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Divine Office: Week 2

### ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX (1873-1897)

This Tuesday 1 October we celebrate the Feast of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, also known as the St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face and the "Little Flower". St Thérèse left a spiritual legacy that did not become well known until after her passing but have since impacted and influenced generations of Catholics worldwide by deepening their relationship with Christ. She is known as the 'Little Flower of Jesus' because she compared herself to a wildflower in God's garden and believed that she gave glory to God by being herself.

Marie-Francoise-Thérèse Martin was born in 1873 in Alençon, France, to devout Catholics Zélie and Louis Martin (both parents would eventually be canonised together by Pope Francis in 2015). Thérèse was one of five surviving children of nine. Her four sisters, Marie, Pauline, Léonie and Céline, also became Carmelite nuns.

Thérèse was a weak and frail infant, cared for by a wet nurse for the first year and a half of her life. But she grew to be a lively, intelligent and generally happy child; candid though stubborn. She thrived on the love which surrounded her in her very Christian home. Prayer, Mass, and practical good works formed the basis for her ardent love of Jesus she gained – the desire to please Him and the Virgin Mary.

Unfortunately, these times soon come to an end. Thérèse's mother died of a in 1877 when Thérèse was just four years old. The once lively Thérèse became timid and withdrawn. The family moved to Lisieux, Normandy. Her older sister, Pauline, took over the role of "mother" and Thérèse became very close to her. Thérèse was home-educated until the age of eight, when she entered the Benedictine run school of the Abbey of Notre Dame du Pré in Lisieux. Here, the already well-educated Thérèse achieved high grades, but was bullied for her achievements and success. She later described her experience here as the saddest of her life.

In 1882, aged nine, her sister Pauline entered the Descalced Carmelite convent at Lisieux. Thérèse was devastated. She understood that Pauline was cloistered and that she would never come back and felt that she had lost her. She then also desired to join the Carmelites, but was told she was too young. However, Mother Marie Gonzague, the prioress, was so impressed with Thérèse that she wrote to comfort her, calling her "my little daughter Thérèse of the Child Jesus".

At about this time, Thérèse fell seriously ill. She suffered intensely from constant headaches and insomnia, fits of fever and trembling and cruel hallucinations. Doctors were unable to diagnose her, and no treatments helped. Then, Thérèse turned her head to a statue of the Virgin near her bed and prayed for a cure. "Suddenly" she wrote, "Mary's face radiated kindness and love." Thérèse felt cured. The statue has since been called "Our Lady of the Smile." During her long illness, Thérèse's resolve to join the Carmelites grew stronger, and her determination to do something great for God and for others. She reaffirmed her life's goals, and was intelligent enough at her young age to realise she could not accomplish them without suffering. What was hidden from her eyes was just how much she would have to endure to win her glory.

Around this time, Thérèse had become very close to sister Marie, but Thérèse was dealt another hard blow when Marie also entered the Lisieux Carmel. Thérèse had lost her third "mother". But after midnight Mass on Christmas of that same year, after meditating on the love that was Christ's gift of himself, that shadow of depression and uncertainty suddenly lifted, leaving Thérèse in possession of a new calm and inner conviction through grace. That night, "God worked a little miracle to make me grow up in an instant," she said, years later. This was a turning point, which she would later call her "complete conversion". Now, she felt able to fulfil her dream of entering the Carmel as soon as possible to love Jesus and pray for sinners. In May 1887, Thérèse approached her 63-year-old father and told him that she wanted to celebrate the anniversary of "her conversion" by entering Carmel before Christmas. But again, she was not permitted due to her youth.

During that summer, French newspapers were filled with the story of Pranzini, a convicted murderer sentenced to the guillotine, who showed no remorse. Thérèse prayed hard for his conversion so his soul could be saved. At the very moment of his execution, he grabbed a crucifix and kissed it three times. Thérèse was ecstatic and believed that her prayers had saved him and continued to pray for Pranzini after his death. In November of that year, while on a diocesan pilgrimage to Rome for the priestly jubilee of Pope Leo XIII, Thérèse asked him to allow her to enter Carmel, to which he responded, "Well, my child, do what the superiors decide... You will enter if it is God's Will" and he blessed her. During that pilgrimage she came to understand that priests, who until then she had deemed quite spotless, were no less subject to human weakness than others, and that they, as much as any sinner, needed prayer. Around this time, Thérèse also experienced for the first time the affection of a man, but this only served to reaffirm her resolve to join Carmel. This time the Bishop of Bayeux authorised the prioress to receive Thérèse. In April 1888 she became a postulant in the Carmel of Lisieux.

Thérèse spent nine years in the Carmel of Lisieux. Life in the convent was a full schedule, with prayer times that took up about seven hours a day. Work was done in solitude and the nuns followed a code of silence. Within Carmel Thérèse discovered her vocation of hiddenness through her devotion to the Holy Face. She accepted criticism in silence, even unjust criticisms, and smiled at the sisters who were unpleasant to her. **She grew in love and sanctity, perfecting her "Little Way" of consecrating to God everything she did, no matter how trivial. She prayed without great sensitive emotions and increased the small acts of charity and care for others, doing small services.** She realised that she felt small and insignificant, and that she needed to learn to ask God for help. A passage from Proverbs struck her with particular force: "Whosoever is a little one, let him come to me" (Proverbs 9:4). From another passage from the Book of Isaiah (66:12-13) Thérèse concluded that Jesus would carry her to the summit of sanctity. The smallness of Thérèse - her limits - became in this way grounds for joy, rather than discouragement. Not until her autobiography did she give this discovery the name of "little way" (*petite voie*). The "little way" of Thérèse is the foundation of her spirituality.<sup>1</sup>

Thérèse's final years were marked by a steady decline that she bore resolutely and without complaint. Tuberculosis was the key element of Thérèse's final suffering. Confined to the infirmary at Carmel, at the request of her Prioress she spent her time writing out her life story. This manuscript eventually became part of her book "Story of a Soul" (L'histoire d'un âme).

St Thérèse died just 24 years old. But believing that her life was really just beginning for God, she promised to spend her heaven doing good on earth. Within months, the Carmelites at Lisieux began to receive reports of "favours and graces" attributed to St Thérèse.

Her canonisation took place in 1925. In 1997, St Thérèse was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II, making her the second Carmelite nun to receive that distinction after St Teresa of Avila. Pope John Paul II stated: "Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face is the youngest of all the Doctors of the Church, but her ardent spiritual journey shows such maturity, and the insights of faith expressed in her writings are so vast and profound that they deserve a place among the great spiritual masters."



**MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 29 SEPTEMBER 2024 – YEAR B** **26TH SUNDAY of Ordinary Time**Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough>

Saturday	28	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Sunday	29	9.30am	St Joseph's	
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	30	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Jerome</i>
Tuesday	1	5.30pm	St Edward's (NOT MASS)	<i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (of Lisieux)</i> <b>Service of the Word &amp; Holy Communion</b>
Wednesday	2	10am	St Peter's	<i>Holy Guardian Angels</i>
Thursday	3	10am	St Joseph's	
Friday	4	10am	St Peter's	<b>HARVEST FAST DAY</b> <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>
Saturday	5	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Faustina Kowalska</i>

**MASS IN THE SYRO-MALABAR RITE** celebrated monthly **9.30am** on **4th Sunday of month** at St Edward's Church.**CONFESSIONS** Normal times **Sat: 10.30-11am** at St Peter's & **5-5.20pm** at St Edward's; **Sun: 9-9.20am** at St Joseph's; & **by request****ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT** weekdays **9.15 - 9.55am** at St Peter's, **1 hour before Mass** at St Joseph's, **5pm** St Edward's**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (Children only)** St Peter's **1st Sunday monthly**; St Joseph's **Sundays, weekly****ST PETER'S SCHOOL PRAYER WALL** <https://padlet.com/ajwilson14/our-prayer-intentions-wall-zbws1e06ezgdq165>**HOLY FATHER'S OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION:** *that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people***RECENTLY DEAD:** Susan Scanlan, Carol Hartley, Trish Mercer, Brian Sellers (Fr Michael's father);**ANNIVERSARIES:** Des Freeman, Joseph Canavan, Canon Austen Wood;**MASS ATTENDANCE:** Vigil: St Edward's **82**; Sunday: St Joseph's **126**; St Peter's **175**; Polish **55** (est); **Total 438****OFFERINGS:** Loose Plate **£636**; Gift Aid Envelopes **£279**, **Standing Orders £760** (av.); Contactless **£70**; Polish: **£30**;**Total £1,775. Thank you!** **STANDING ORDER/ONLINE GIVING** Parish Bank: Barclays, Account No: **50003417**,Sort Code: **20-56-90**, Name: *Diocese of Middlesbrough*. **Include a reference** if Gift Aiding your donation (please signa parish declaration) **OR** donate online at <https://donate.mydona.com/st-peters-church-scarborough>**300 CLUB WEEKLY WINNER: £25 No.216; £10 No.54.** Congratulations! **£1** p/wk for 2 numbers.**FUNERAL SERVICE** of Mrs Susan Scanlon is at **11am on Wednesday 2 October** at Woodlands Crematorium.**FUNERAL SERVICE** of Patricia Mercer, aged 93 years, is at **12 noon on Thursday 3 October** at Woodlands Crematorium.**180TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) in England & Wales:** The Society was first founded in Paris by *Blessed Fredric Ozanam* and his companions in 1833 to help relieve the poverty of the people living in the slums in the city. The Society was established in England and Wales in 1844 tackling poverty in all forms by providing practical assistance to people. There will be an **Appeal** at all Masses next weekend on behalf of the SVP.**FEAST OF ST MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA of the Blessed Sacrament** Saturday 5 October. She was born in Poland as Helena Kowalska on 25 August 1905. She died on 5 October 1938, after being chosen by Jesus and Mary to become the unlikely apostle of the divine mercy. She was **canonised by Pope John Paul II in April 2000AD**. The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is recited at St Peter's each Friday, 15 mins before morning Mass.**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** lead us in singing today at St Peter's 11.30am Mass. New members welcome. Parents to accompany to practices.**BABY AND TODDLER GROUP** (from birth onwards) is held at St Peter's School on **Monday mornings** after the school bell.**ST AUGUSTINES SCHOOL GOVERNORS MEETING** Wednesday 2 October 2pm in school.**CAFOD AUTUMN FAST DAY** is this **Friday 4 October**. Envelopes available - please take one, and **Gift Aid** if you can.**MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND EUCHARIST INSPIRATIONAL DAY** Saturday 19 October at Scarborough Spa Conference Centre. Registration **9.20am**, ends **3pm** after Mass. Lunch & refreshments inc. 24 going. Cost to the parish **£960**.**DIOCESAN HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ROME** Monday 6 to Saturday 11 October 2025 led **Bishop Travel agent: Joe Walsh Tours**. For more info & how to book, see the September issue of the *Catholic Voice*. Cost **£1,495pp** sharing.**EASTER CHOIR** (among others) will sing in the concert on **4 October**. Rehearsals at St Peter's **7pm Friday** evenings.**'SOME ENCHANTED EVENING' CONCERT** Friday 4 October **7pm -9.30pm** (title taken from the South Pacific Musical). *The Blessed Sacrament will be in the Altar of Repose*. This is a parish community event. **Suggested donation** (cash/cheque/contactless) **£7.50** (under 16's free), **includes a glass of wine/juice pre-concert** in the Parish Centre. Proceeds to the **Rainbow Centre**.**HARVEST THANKSGIVING SUNDAY 6 October**. Could anyone bake a large **Harvest Sheaf loaf** to place in front of the Altar? Donations of **non-perishable foods** to be handed in for a display and then we will donate them to the **RAINBOW CENTRE** and to fill **HOUSHOLD BAGS** for needy families. There will be a **box at the back** or leave them in church.**THE STATUE OF MARY** in St Peter's Church has been decorated with a **Rosary** for October, to reflect the month of the Rosary.**EVANGELISATION SHED** in front of St Peter's Parish Centre: the **October display** was prepared by the Legion of Mary.**ST PETER'S CHURCH WINDOWS REPAIRS REPORT** will cost in the region of **£120,000+VAT**. The work will go out to tender.**ST PETER'S PARISH CENTRE TOILETS** Renovation and decorating work continues in the parish centre hall and toilet areas, which are still **not accessible**. Portaloo toilets will remain in the car park until the work is complete. Hire Cost of Portaloo's **£340**.**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CLEANING GROUP** is looking for help. They only meet on a **Tuesday morning once a fortnight - 9.30am to 11am**. Their numbers are now very depleted.**PARISH SECRETARY** is on annual leave week commencing 7 October - all enquiries to Fr Gubbins during this period.**SUNDAY SMILE:** *I asked an elderly bloke why he was using two massive chips as walking sticks. He replied "they're McCains!"*