



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@rcdmidd.org.uk • Website: www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk

5 JANUARY 2025 - FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: YEAR C

Divine Office: Week 2

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Feast of the Epiphany is also known as Wise Men Day or 3 Kings Day. This year, The Feast of the Epiphany has been moved to the nearest Sunday. Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted image of Three Wise Men (or Magi) bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the Day of the Kings (Dia de los Reyes), and presents are opened on that day, in imitation of the gifts brought to the Christ child. In Ireland it is known as Little Christmas Day (in Irish, Nollaig Na Mban), or Women's Little Christmas, because the men take on the household duties. It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on 6 or 7 January.



The word epiphany means appearance or manifestation or revelation. Use of this word carries with it the idea of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The texts for the Sundays after the Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was. But this ever-widening circle of revelation began 'outside the circle' of Judaism, so to speak, with the Magi. It is customary to add 3 kings to the manger scene.

Who were the Magi? Many versions of the Bible refer to them as the Wise Men. We often forget that these Magi or Wise Men were non-Jews. Older sources suggest that they were priestly descendants of one of the tribes of the Medes, known for their knowledge of the stars (astronomy) and their ability to interpret dreams. Their tomb is in Cologne Cathedral, Germany.

4 things we can learn from the MAGI /Wise Men

Firstly, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs. It was a common belief that when a world leader like a king was born that a special stellar phenomenon would appear in the sky. The Magi saw something that convinced them that they had seen the long-awaited sign. Historians tell us that the Jews, the Romans, and the Persians were all watching the skies about that time, looking for signs of the birth of an extraordinary king. A few years before, around 11 BC, Halley's Comet had been seen. There were other stellar phenomena, including a bright star, Sirius, which appeared brightly in the daytime instead of at night. The Wise Men saw the star and began their journey.

Secondly, the Wise Men were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory. Their journey took them outside their country and their comfort zone. The Wise Men risked the consequences of disobeying Herod, who was known to behave as a madman when provoked and returned to their country by another way.

Thirdly, the Wise Men were committed to the journey - wherever the star might lead. The Wise Men set out to find a new-born King by following a star and ended up in finding a baby born to young, relatively poor parents! Not exactly what they expected and not exactly what befit their dignity as priests.

Finally, the Wise Men brought gifts. They did the thing that people in the East or in Africa or in India would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts: Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king. Frankincense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest. Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die.

On this Twelfth Day, or Three Kings Day, otherwise known as Epiphany, think of the gift that we will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of our talents? Our service in the community? Our witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion? The greatest gift of the Three Wise Men comes to us in the form of a realization. They were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. The Good news is for everyone, not just a select few. In this coming year, 2021, may we look to heaven for guidance and comfort and may we accept God's blessings in whatever forms we find them, just as the Wise Men accepted that their long, expensive journey led them to a baby born to young, inexperienced parents who lived on the poor side of town.



They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2.9

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF A HOME

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless our home and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 5 JANUARY 2025 – YEAR C				FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY	
Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough					
Saturday Vigil	4	5.30pm	St Edward's		
Sunday		9.30am	St Joseph's	<i>FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY</i>	
	5	9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)		
		11.30am	St Peter's		
Monday	6	11am	St Peter's	<i>Requiem Mass</i>	
Tuesday	7	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>St Raymond of Penyafort</i>	
Wednesday	8	10am	St Peter's		
Thursday	9	10am	St Joseph's		
Friday	10	10am	St Peter's		
Saturday	11	10am	St Peter's		
MASS IN THE SYRO-MALABAR RITE celebrated monthly 9.30am on 4th Sunday of month at St Edward's Church.					
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					
HOLY FATHER'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION: <i>Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.</i>					
RECENT DEAD: Geraldine Wilkinson, Richard McGorley; ANNIVS: Cyril Swales, Callam Byrne; MASS ATTENDANCE: Vigil: St Edward's 74 ; Sunday: St Joseph's 144 ; St Peter's 169 ; Polish 55 (est); Total 442 ; NEW YEAR'S DAY ATTENDANCE 153 (est); OFFERINGS: Gift Aid Envelopes £256 , Standing Orders £760 (av.); Contactless £97 ; Polish: £30 ; Total £1,143 . Thank you! STANDING ORDER/ONLINE GIVING Parish Bank: Barclays, Account No: 50003417 , Sort Code: 20-56-90 , Name: <i>Diocese of Middlesbrough</i> . Include a reference if GiftAiding your donation (please sign a parish declaration) OR donate online at https://donate.mydona.com/st-peters-church-scarborough ;					
300 CLUB WEEKLY WINNER: £25 No.106; £10 No.66. Congratulations! Spaces available to join: £1 p/wk for 2 numbers.					



CARRYING CHRISTMAS WITH US As in the slogan “a dog is for life, not just for Christmas”, so too, Christ is for life, and not just for Christmas. We go with Him in hope and faith into the New Year 2025.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 banner now hanging over main door of our three churches to highlight this special Year of Grace and Mercy.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD is next **Sunday 12 January**. We invite all families who had a child baptised during 2024 to join us for St Peter's 11.30am Mass on this day. Names will be called out and families should come forward. **45** children were baptised during 2024.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 to 25 January – octave of Ss Peter & Paul. More info in next week's newsletter.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL will take place on **Sunday 26 January**. There will be a second collection.

NEW YEAR DINNER AT NORTH CLIFF GOLF CLUB 7.30pm Friday 31 January. Cost **£25** per person. Names to lists. **Menu:** Cream of vegetable soup or prawn cocktail; steak pie or salmon; treacle sponge or cheese & biscuit; tea or coffee. *A few of you have already put their name down before the menu had been advertised. Please return to the list and make your menu selections.*

SOUP KITCHEN open at YMCA on St Thomas Street, Scarborough **until 31 March**. *Please spread the word to anyone who may benefit.*

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE List of winning numbers on noticeboards. Check & collect your prize, if you haven't already done so.

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES return this week for the new year.

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2025 now available **£1**. A useful resource of info about parishes across the diocese, schools and lots more, plus the full liturgical calendar for 2025.

LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP (LPW) GRANT SCHEME Introduced in 2004, the scheme makes it possible for Listed Places of Worship to claim back the VAT on repair projects of over £1,000 throughout the UK (churches don't normally qualify to reclaim vat in the normal way). The scheme is due to expire in March 2025 and Chancellor Rachel Reeves made no announcement to extend the Scheme. We in danger of losing this scheme, which has been a valuable source of financial help for our listed churches. The Scheme is run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and is managed by EMB Ltd, and the decision on the future of this scheme is theirs. You are urged, along with all parishioners across the country, to **write to your MP** make the case for the future of the scheme. A **form of words** can be found on the website of the National Churches Trust, if you need some help with this, but **do personalise it** as far as possible, and **do mention your local church**. Go to <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/autumn-budget-important-update-uk-churches>

REVIEW OF THE YEAR Baptisms 45, Funerals 30, Weddings 3, First Holy Communions 36, Average weekday Mass attendance 30, Average weekend attendance 437, Average weekly collection £1,886.

SUNDAY SMILE: *If anyone gets a message from me about canned food, don't open it. It's spam!*

EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR – CHALKING OF THE DOORS (See below) Cut out the blessing and place it over the main door of your home. This is a centuries-old Christian tradition in which the faithful have marked the entrance to their homes with a symbol of faith, asking God's blessing upon those who live in, work in, or visit it throughout the coming year. The symbolism of the message is as follows: [first two digits of the year] + C + M + B + [the last two digits of the year]. The “C”, “M”, & “B” stand for the names of the three Magi: *Caspar, Malchior & Balthazar*, and the “+” represents the **cross**. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* meaning “*May Christ bless this house.*” A short prayer may be said as you put up the inscription: Leader: *Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.* People: *Amen.*

EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

20 C + M + B + 25

