



# 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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25 MAY 2025: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE Week 2



### THE POPE AND THE ROLE OF THE PAPACY

During the Inauguration Mass of on **Sunday 18 May**, Pope Leo XIV received the **Ring of the Fisherman** - a symbol of the Petrine Ministry with deep roots in the New Testament (see photo). St Peter was known as the fisherman apostle. The Ring of the Fisherman thus authenticates the faith and symbolises the duty with which the first Pope was entrusted, and thus each of his successors.

**ORIGIN AND ROLE OF THE PAPACY:** The prophet Zechariah taught that without a shepherd the sheep will scatter (*Zechariah 13:7*). Does this mean Christians are hopeless since our shepherd, Jesus, is no longer with us? Fortunately, we are not sheep without a shepherd. Jesus gave us a Pope to be his representative on earth, guiding and protecting his flock until he comes again. **The first Pope was St**

**Peter.** After Peter gives a confession about the identity of Jesus (see Matthew 16:15-19), the Lord gives Peter a three-fold blessing: *“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* In Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus, the word *Cephas* (transliteration of *kepha*) meant rock. Peter is the English transliteration of the closest Greek equivalent, *Petros*, Greek being the language of most of the New Testament. Jesus founds His Church, the place where God gathers His people, upon Peter, and gives him authority over it, and also guarantees that the Church will endure until his Second Coming. Additionally, in the Jewish tradition, the gifting of “keys of the kingdom” signified an institution in the Davidic kingdom known as the royal steward, an official who was considered a “father” of the kingdom’s inhabitants (*Isaiah 22:15-22*). Jesus’ gift of the keys means that Peter (and his successors) was to lead the Church as a spiritual father—a papa or pope.

So, we need not be afraid of scattering without a shepherd. And Jesus has promised for all generations that through the papacy his sheep will still be **fed, protected, and guided into truth**. At the very end of the Gospel of John, **Jesus gives Peter the charge to feed his sheep** (*John 21:15-17*). From that point on, Peter had a unique role: the sheep belonged to Jesus the Good Shepherd, but Peter had the special job of nourishing them in faith. In the Bible we see Peter exercising this special role on several occasions. For example, **he made pastoral visits** - to oversee the sheep in the fields - to Christians dispersed in all areas of the known world (*Acts 9:32*). He also **led Christ’s flock to truth** when he capped the debate concerning whether Gentile converts to Christianity needed to be circumcised (*Acts 15:1-12*).

So that Christians wouldn’t lose their shepherd when Peter died, the office of the papacy has been passed from one man to another ever since, continuing in **unbroken succession** for nearly 2,000 years. Each Pope has been commissioned to lead and care for God’s people as Jesus’ special representative - the vicar of Christ. Just as **Jesus prayed for Peter specifically**, that his faith wouldn’t fail (*Luke 22:32*), so do Peter’s successors benefit from God’s special grace and the prayers of the whole Church.

**NAMES FOR THE POPE AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE** The word **Pope** comes from the Latin *papa*, meaning *father*. The Pope serves as the spiritual father and servant leader of the universal Church (Matt. 23:11). **Successor of the Prince of the Apostles:** This is a direct reference to St Peter, who was deemed Prince of the Apostles on the strength of Jesus declaration in Matthew 16:18. **Bishop of Rome:** Peter came to Rome and died there and established his See at Rome, making the bishop of Rome his successor in the primacy. **Primate of Italy:** Nothing to do with monkeys – a primate is a head. The Pope is the head of the Italian bishops. **Vicar of Christ:** The word *vicar* comes from the Latin word *vicarius*, meaning *substitute* or *representative*. In the context of Christianity, a vicar is someone acting in the place of or on behalf of a superior, such as the bishop. In the Pope’s case, he is acting on behalf of Christ. The Pope is the **Pillar and Defender** of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church and of the orthodox Catholic Faith. **Supreme Pontiff:** The Latin term *pontifex* means *bridge builder* (from *pons*, *pont-* ‘bridge’ and *-fex* from *facere* ‘make’). In ancient Roman religion, the head priest was called the *pontifex maximus* (the greatest bridge builder). Julius Caesar held this title more than 40 years before Jesus was born. After Christianity was legalised under the Emperor Constantine (313), and became the state religion, the term *pontiff* was applied to the bishop of Rome. As supreme pontiff, or *great bridge builder* the inherent role of the Pope is to bridge the gap between God and humankind. As a spiritual leader, he is seen as a mediator, connecting people to God’s love and grace. But the Pope’s bridge-building role is a multi-faceted one, encompassing religious, cultural, and social dimensions. It’s a commitment to understanding, dialogue, and reconciliation, ultimately seeking to build a more just, peaceful, and unified world. As **Supreme Pastor** the pope represents Christ’s love and concern for every single individual. That is why the Pope’s priority lies in getting to know people, understanding how they live, listening to their interests and sharing their sufferings and their joys. **Servant of the Servants of God:** From the Latin *“Servus servorum Dei”* and rooted in Matthew (20:26-27,) which says, *“It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave;”*. At the Last Supper, Jesus gets down on his knees and washes the feet of the twelve apostles. He is saying, *“I’m trying to show you something: you are servants.”*

**PAPAL INFALLIBILITY:** Catholics believe **the Pope is infallible when he individually defines a doctrine on faith and morals for the entire Church**, as well as when he teaches definitively **1)** at an ecumenical council with his brother bishops, or **2)** does the same in unity with the bishops even though they are dispersed throughout the world. The charism of infallibility does not mean the Pope is sinless or otherwise perfect, but rather that, **through the guidance of the Holy Spirit**, he and his brother bishops will be protected from error when teaching definitively on a particular doctrinal matter – thereby ensuring that the Church remains faithful to Christ’s truth (see CCC 889-891).

Image credit: Mazur/cbcew.org.uk: Pope Leo XIV Inauguration Mass in St Peter's Square

Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough>

SATURDAY VIGIL	24	5.30pm	St Edward's	
SUNDAY	25	9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		9.30am	St Joseph's	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	26	10am	St Joseph's	St Philip Neri
Tuesday	27	5.30pm	St Edward's	ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
Wednesday	28	10am	St Peter's	
		5.30pm	St Edward's	ASCENSION VIGIL MASS
Thursday	29	10am	St Joseph's	ASCENSION OF THE LORD
		7pm	St Peter's	HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Friday	30	10am	St Peter's	
Saturday	31	10am	St Peter's	VISITATION OF OUR LADY

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 9.30 - 10am 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 MAY PRAYER INTENTION: *Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanised.*

LATELY DEAD Josephine Dinsdale, Dorothy Thomas, Jeff Evans; ANNIV'S: Bryan Thompson, Margaret Bainbridge, Annie Alonzi, Peter Derry, Remigio Soriano; MASS ATTENDANCE: St Edward's 69; St Joseph's 194; St Peter's 196; Polish 80 (est); Total 539; OFFERINGS: Loose plate: £652; Gift Aid Envelopes: £350; Av. Standing Orders: £740 (av.); Contactless £75; Polish: £30; Total £1,847; ONLINE GIVING Parish bank account: Barclays Bank Account No: 50003417, Sort Code: 20-56-90, Account name: Diocese of Middlesbrough. Include a reference. Sign up to Gift Aid your offerings if you can. OR donate online at <https://donate.mydona.com/st-peters-church-scarborough> OR use the QR code (see left). 300 CLUB WEEKLY WINNER: £25 No.171; £10 No.56;



WELCOME to Fr Martin and Fr Thomas from Muston, who are helping out with Masses and Confessions while Fr Gubbins has a break and rest away from the parishes. Fr Gubbins returns on Saturday 31 May in time for Vigil Mass.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD is this Thursday 29 May and is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. Note the change in Mass times.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT DAY 10am to 2.30pm Wed 4 June at St George's Church Hall, Moor Lane, Eastfield for all 42 children & catechists. Bus departs 9.30am from St Peter's School. Departs St George's 2.30pm to be back in time for the end of the school day. Bring packed lunch and drink. Some children will be dropped off there by car

CONFIRMATION MEETING & REHEARSAL Thur 5 June at St Joseph's Church (meeting 7pm, rehearsal 7.30pm).

ANY ADULT WHO HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED Meeting in St Peter's Parish Centre 11.30am Saturday 7 June.

LISIEUX PILGRIMS REUNION 1pm Sat 7 June in St Peter's Parish Centre. Short films on St Thérèse and the miraculous medal. Bring your photos to share over a cuppa and chat. Some photos of the Pilgrimage up on the Parish website and FACEBOOK Page

GRAND EASTER RAFFLE will be drawn on Sunday 8 June in St Peter's Parish Centre after 11.30am Mass. Tickets £5/bk. Prizes: 1st £100, 2nd £50, 3rd £25 & many more. Cash donations and good quality prizes would be greatly welcomed.

NIGERIAN COMMUNITY will lead the singing at the 11.30am Mass on Sunday 1 June. Anyone from Nigeria please get in touch.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHERSAL & 2nd CONFESSIONS for children in non-Catholic schools, 6pm Thurs 5 June in St Peter's Church. For the children attending St Peter's School, rehearsals are at 3.30pm on Wednesday 11 June at St Joseph's Church.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will be celebrated at St Paulinus Church, Guisborough 7pm Tues 10 June and at St Joseph's Church, Scarborough with Bishop Terry 7pm Wed 11 June, joined by Bridlington candidates. Any candidates get in touch.

SOME APF RED BOXES with no names on to be collected. Those with Boxes at home, empty the contents and bring the money in. We have Ann Staunton the replacement on the death of Bob Stankiste. Her Tel. number is 07943529990

CHILDRENS CHOIR lead the singing at 11.30am Mass today. Rehearsal 10.30am in Parish Centre. Newcomers welcome.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING: 65 YRS OF ST JOSEPH'S 7pm Wed 11 June with Bishop Terry (joint celebration with Confirmation)

PARISH DINNER 65 years of St Joseph's: 7pm Fri 1 August at North Cliff Golf Club. Invitation to all 3 churches. 55 places. £25pp payable when placing order. Pick up a menu from back of church. Groups wishing to sit together, note on your order (8 max per table).

CONGRATS to Cleo and Elmer Robles on their 30th (pearl) wedding anniversary, this Wednesday 28 May.

HEAD OF ST PETER'S We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Sarah Seeley as new permanent Headteacher of St Peter's School

RETIRING COLLECTION for Bishop Draine, who is retiring after 17 years as our Bishop raised £262. Thank you.

MANHATTEN SINGERS Concert & raffle amounted to £433. Well done and thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION for Vocations Sunday this Sunday 25 May at St Joseph's only as this was missed on Vocations Sunday.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY next Sunday 1 June. There will be a Second Collection at all churches that weekend.

CONTACTLESS DEVICE Please do not use the contactless device for transactions not listed on the screen. This causes admin issues. Transactions are difficult to identify correctly and Gift Aid claim can be incorrectly processed on non-Gift Aid items (eg. Mass intention).

SUNDAY SMILE: If a man says he will fix it, he will. No need to remind him every 6 months!