



# 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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**27 JULY 2025: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C**

***DIVINE OFFICE: Week 1***

### MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE 5TH WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

*Blessed are those who have not lost hope (cf. Sir 14:2)*

Dear brothers and sisters. The Jubilee we are now celebrating helps us to realise that hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age. When that hope has also been tempered by fire over the course of a long life, it proves a source of deep happiness.

Sacred Scripture offers us many examples of men and women whom the Lord called late in life to play a part in his saving plan. We can think of Abraham and Sarah, who, advanced in years, found it hard to believe when God promised them a child. Their childlessness seemed to prevent them from any hope for the future.

Zechariah's reaction to the news of John the Baptist's birth was no different: "How can this be? I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years" (Lk 1:18). Old age, barrenness and physical decline apparently blocked any hope for life and fertility in these men and women. The question that Nicodemus asked Jesus when the Master spoke to him of being "born again" also seems purely rhetorical: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (Jn 3:4). Yet whenever we think that things cannot change, the Lord surprises us with an act of saving power.

***The elderly as signs of hope:*** In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (cf. Ex 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, *the first witnesses of hope*. Augustine asks, "What do we mean by old age?" He tells us that God himself answers the question: "Let your strength fail, so that my strength may abide within you, and you can say with the Apostle, 'When I am weak, then I am strong'" (Ps. 70,11). The increasing number of elderly people is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to interpret properly this moment of history. The life of the Church and the world can only be understood in light of the passage of generations. Embracing the elderly helps us to understand that life is more than just the present moment and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future. In the book of Genesis, we find the moving episode of the blessing given by the aged Jacob to his grandchildren, the sons of Joseph; his words are an appeal to look to the future with hope, as the time when God's promises will be fulfilled (cf. Gen 48:8-20). If it is true that the weakness of the elderly needs the strength of the young, it is equally true that the inexperience of the young needs the witness of the elderly in order to build the future with wisdom. How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance.

***Signs of hope for the elderly:*** From biblical times, the Jubilee has been understood as a time of liberation. Slaves were freed, debts were forgiven and land was returned to its original owners. The Jubilee was a time when the social order willed by God was restored, and inequalities and injustices accumulated over the years were remedied. Jesus evoked those moments of liberation when, in the synagogue of Nazareth, he proclaimed good news to the poor, sight to the blind and freedom for prisoners and the oppressed (cf. Lk 4:16-21).

Looking at the elderly in the spirit of this Jubilee, we are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment. This year is a fitting time to do so. God's fidelity to his promises teaches us that there is a blessedness in old age, an authentic evangelical joy inspiring us to break through the barriers of indifference in which the elderly often find themselves enclosed. Our societies, everywhere in the world, are growing all too accustomed to letting this significant and enriching part of their life be marginalised and forgotten.

Given this situation, a change of pace is needed that would be readily seen in an assumption of responsibility on the part of the whole Church. Every parish, association and ecclesial group is called to become a protagonist in a "revolution" of gratitude and care, to be brought about by regular visits to the elderly, the creation of networks of support and prayer for them and with them, and the forging of relationships that can restore hope and dignity to those who feel forgotten. Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are. In this case, it urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled.

That is why Pope Francis wanted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated primarily through an effort to seek out elderly persons who are living alone. For this reason, those who are unable to come to Rome on pilgrimage during this Holy Year may "obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, the elderly who are alone... making, in a sense, a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. Mt 25:34-36)" (Apostolic Penitentiary, *Norms for the Granting of the Jubilee Indulgence*, III). Visiting an elderly person is a way of encountering Jesus, who frees us from indifference and loneliness.

***As elderly persons, we can hope:*** The Book of Sirach calls blessed those who have not lost hope (cf. 14:2). Perhaps, especially if our lives are long, we may be tempted to look not to the future but to the past. Yet, as Pope Francis wrote during his last hospitalisation, "our bodies are weak, but even so, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being there for one another, in faith, as shining signs of hope" (Angelus, 16 March 2025). We possess a freedom that no difficulty can rob us of; it is the freedom to love and to pray. Everyone, always, can love and pray.

Our affection for our loved ones – for the wife or husband with whom we have spent so much of our lives, for our children, for our grandchildren who brighten our days – does not fade when our strength wanes. Indeed, their own affection often revives our energy and brings us hope and comfort. These signs of living love, which have their roots in God himself, give us courage and remind us that "even if our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor 4:16). Especially as we grow older, let us press forward with confidence in the Lord. May we be renewed each day by our encounter with him in prayer and in Holy Mass. Let us lovingly pass on the faith we have lived for so many years, in our families and in our daily encounter with others. May we always praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age.

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 27 JULY 2025 – YEAR C				17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: <a href="https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough">https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough</a>				
Saturday	26	5.30pm	St Edward's Vigil	
Sunday	27	9.30am	St Joseph's	
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	28	10am	St Joseph's	
Tuesday	29	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>St Martha, Mary &amp; Lazarus</i>
Wednesday	30	11.30am	St Peter's	<i>St Peter Chrysologus</i>
Thursday	31	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Ignatius Loyola</i>
Friday	1	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>
Saturday	2	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Eusebius of Vercelli / St Peter Julian Eymard</i>
MASS IN THE SYRO-MALABAR RITE celebrated monthly 4pm on 4th Sunday of month at St Edward's Church (Catechism at 3pm)				
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				
** LIVESTREAM MASS from St Peter's available via YouTube: <a href="https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough">https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough</a> **				
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 AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION: <i>Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.</i>				
RECENTLY DEAD: John Baker, Vic Buck; ANNIV'S: George MK, Michael McCauley, Anthony Greenaway, Pat Aveyard, Matthew Gilson, Fr Tom O'Connell; MASS ATTENDANCE: Saturday Vigil: St Edward's 81; Sunday: St Joseph's 138; St Peter's 200; Polish 80 (est); Total 499; OFFERINGS: Loose plate: £649; Gift Aid Envelopes: £295; Av. Standing Orders: £740 (av.); Contactless £1,075; Polish: £30; Total £2,789; ONLINE GIVING Parish bank account: Barclays Bank Account No: 50003417, Sort Code: 20-56-90, Account name: <i>Diocese of Middlesbrough</i> . Include a reference - your name, if you are Gift Aiding (you will need to sign up if haven't already). OR donate online at <a href="https://donate.mydona.com/st-peters-church-scarborough">https://donate.mydona.com/st-peters-church-scarborough</a> OR use the QR code (see left). 300 CLUB WEEKLY WINNER: £25 No.48; £10 No.1				



WELCOME to Fr Martin Gosling, who is celebrating the Saturday Vigil Mass and Monday morning Mass in the absence of Fr Kieran.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR lead us in the 11.30am Mass at St Peter's today. New members welcome.

REQUIEM MASS of John Baker (85 yrs) of Belle Vue Street: 11.30am on Wednesday 30 July at St Peter's Church.

5TH WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY is this Sunday 27 July - the Sunday closest day to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus, which was last Saturday 26 July. This special day was established by Pope Francis in 2021 to honour and recognise the important role of grandparents and the elderly in families and society. The theme this year was chosen by Pope Francis his death: *Blessed are those who have not lost hope (cf. Sir 14:2)*, though the Message was written and delivered by our new Pope Leo XIV. See front page.

HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN for Grandparents Day: use the special photo-frame available at each church after Mass (free – use your own camera).

ST JOSEPH'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY resumes today 27 July as normal.

INSTRUCTION FOR CONVERTS (RCIA) Course takes a break for the summer and resumes in September.

PRAYER CARDS marking Bishop Draine and Bishop Crowley's 50th & 60th anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood are available at back of our 3 churches. The prayer words are lovely. Do take one. They have been given out across the diocese. We unite with other parishes in congratulating and praying for them and in giving thanks for their ministries down the years.

ST JOSEPH'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER 6.30 for 7pm on Friday 1 August at North Cliff Golf Club. Free glass of wine provided.

VISIT OF RELICS OF CARLO ACUTIS (1991-2006) Saturday 20 to Tuesday 23 September: On 7 September Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonised (made a saint) after being postponed due to Pope Francis' death. Carlo is known for deep devotion to the Catholic faith. He had a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and was responsible for creating a website documenting all the Eucharistic Miracles of the world, the exhibition of which was hosted by Scarborough Parishes in 2019. Anna Johnstone, governess of Carlo during his lifetime who came with the exhibition, will bring a First Class Relic of soon-to-be Saint Carlo. There will be veneration, talks, and visits to the schools.

JUBILEE OF HOPE 2025 PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Sadly, due to insufficient support, this has had to be cancelled.

DIOCESAN INSPIRATIONAL STUDY DAY AT THE SPA for Ministers of the Word & Holy Communion: Sat 20 Sept at The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough. Starts 9.20am with registration. Concludes 3pm after Mass. All ministers try to attend. Add your name to the list. £40 per person paid by the parish - be sure you intend to go when putting your name down. Deadline Fri 15 August.

SERVING THE LORD & HIS CHURCH: BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER The Eucharistic is at the heart of our faith life, and the role of a Eucharistic Minister is a sacred one. As a Eucharistic minister you will assist in distributing the body and blood of Christ during Mass. If you feel called to this Ministry please speak to Fr Gubbins at St Peter's Church. *Ministers, please make sure you purify your hands and pyx.*

DOUBLE OR 3/4BED NEEDED for refurbishing St Peter's Parish Centre flat upstairs. If you can help, speak to Fr Gubbins.

ST JOSEPH'S TOILET in the porch is CLOSED. Please use the Sacristy toilet.

COULD YOU SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL? St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust is looking for practising Catholics (aged 18 and over) to join the Local Governance Board of our local Catholic primary and secondary schools. This rewarding volunteer role involves supporting the Headteacher in driving educational outcomes and helping to ensure the Catholic ethos of the school is upheld. Experience and professional skills welcome, but not essential. On average, the time commitment is just 2 hours per month. If you have a heart for Catholic education, they would love to hear from you. Contact Naomi Bedworth at the Trust at: [communications@scrcat.org](mailto:communications@scrcat.org)

SUNDAY SMILE: I bought a 2nd hand rug online. They said it was in mint condition, but when it arrived it had a big hole in the middle!