



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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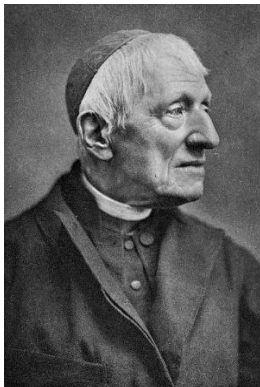
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17 AUGUST 2025: TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE: Week 4



ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN TO BE DECLARED DOCTOR (TEACHER) OF THE CHURCH

Pope Leo XIV has confirmed the title of **Doctor of the Church** will soon be conferred on **St John Henry Newman**, making him the **38th Doctor of the Church**. Many parishioners will remember attending the Papal Visit 15 years ago at Cofton Park Birmingham in 2010, when **Pope Benedict XVI** beatified (*made blessed*) John Henry Newman. He was **canonised by Pope Francis in 2019**. He will become only the Second English '**Doctor of the Church**'.

What is a Doctor of the Church? From time to time, the Church recognises a great Christian theologian of the past whose teaching not only resonated for their own contemporaries, but whose wisdom and insight as an interpreter of the Gospel can still illuminate, instruct and inspire. The Church gives them the title '**Doctor**', from the Latin '**docere**' meaning '**to teach**', because she recognises that each of them has made an outstanding, or 'eminent' contribution to our knowledge of the faith – whether spiritual, intellectual or moral. Very few in the history of the Church have been given this title, beginning with early Church Fathers like St Ambrose and St Augustine, up until St Thérèse of Lisieux. Newman is particularly remarkable for the breadth of his teaching across many aspects of the faith, his influence upon

various branches of doctrine and theology, and his engagement with problems of faith, which remain burning issues in our own time.

Faith, Reason, Conscience and Truth: Newman brought a new clarity and realism to Catholic thought about **the relation between faith and reason**. Born in an age of religious questioning, the young Newman had been tempted by Enlightenment dismissal of any belief not backed by hard evidence as superstition. Both Catholics and Protestants responded by insisting that Christianity could be proved, by arguments from the order and harmony of nature, the reality of miracles, or the testimony of witnesses. Newman did not altogether dismiss such "evidences", but questioned their decisiveness. He argued that all the convictions that really matter come not from purely logical or empirical proofs, but arise from the various evidences spread throughout one's life. Faith is the reward of a longing heart earnestly searching for truth. It is the entire life of the Christian – worship, charitable deeds, study of scripture and tradition, and dialogue – which features *converging probabilities*. Such aspects might be individually inconclusive, but collectively result in certitude, the way a reliable rope is comprised of many strands.

For Newman the most persuasive evidence for the existence of God **the reality of conscience**, the inescapable witness in every human heart that speaks of the objective reality of right and wrong. Of course, individual consciences may be mistaken, misled by upbringing or education. Conscience is '*the highest of all teachers, yet the least luminous*', and needs illumination by the Gospel and the Magisterium of the Church. But its very existence and its peremptory demands point us beyond ourselves, to seek the God whose goodness and righteousness conscience reflects.

In his own lifetime Newman was accused of reducing motives for faith to purely subjective feeling, but his subtle exploration of the psychology of belief, culminating in the *Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent* (1870), has since been recognised as far truer to human experience than the arid intellectualism he combatted. His teaching on conscience gave strength and purpose to members of the White Rose resistance in Nazi Germany, and underlay the Second Vatican Council's declaration on religious freedom, *Dignitatis Humanae*. In his address on the occasion of his creation as a Cardinal he recalled his lifelong opposition to '*the spirit of liberalism in religion*', by which he meant the increasingly prevalent idea that 'there is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another'. In a prophetic way, he foresaw the increasing leanings to relativism and the danger this would pose to the principle of religious truth, as well as to the right conception of the human person and the common good of society.

Development of Doctrine: John Henry Newman believed in the continuous authenticity of Christianity from the time of the Apostles and adopted St Vincent of Lérins' test of universal belief. Initially wary of doctrines like papal authority and prayer to Mary, he was challenged by the realisation that even central tenets such as the Trinity weren't clearly defined in early Christianity. This led him to write *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* (1845), where he argued that true Christianity evolves organically, adapting to new contexts without betraying its essence. He proposed seven "notes" to distinguish authentic developments from distortions and used this framework to justify his conversion to Catholicism. Though unfinished, the essay was a theological breakthrough, influencing later doctrine, ecumenical dialogue, and the Second Vatican Council's *Dei Verbum*. Newman's concept of development became a cornerstone of modern theological thought, and his ability to blend historical insight with theological depth **helped the Church embrace change without abandoning tradition**.

Sensus fidelium (Sense of the faithful): Newman valued both intellect and devotion, desiring a Church where the intellectual layperson is religious and the religious cleric is intellectually engaged. He did **not** support laypeople teaching theology, but strongly encouraged them to study and understand it. He opposed the 19th-century attitude of separating clergy (teachers) from laity (learners) in his 1859 article *On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine*. He argued that lay believers possess a spiritual instinct for truth. His claim that the hierarchy should consult the faithful gave rise to accusations of heresy. His idea of *sensus fidelium* gained traction in the 20th century and influenced the Second Vatican Council. *Dei Verbum*, Section 8, formally acknowledged the role of believers in doctrinal understanding. Newman's thinking now underpins the **Church's synodal vision and concept of "communio"** – a shared spiritual mission among all the faithful.

On Education: Newman emphasised both **moral and intellectual development**, influencing modern education profoundly. As an Oxford tutor, he took personal responsibility for students' academic and ethical growth, introducing the tutorial system to foster one-on-one guidance. He envisioned universities as nurturing institutions – "*an Alma Mater, knowing her children one by one.*" His motto, *cor ad cor loquitur* ("heart speaks to heart"), captured this ethos.

Newman and Ecumenism: Newman was an unlikely ecumenist due to his firm belief that the Church of England was outside the Catholic fold. However, he maintained deep affection for his Anglican mentors and republished most of his Anglican writings with minimal changes, reflecting respect for his former tradition. Newman presented Marian theology grounded in Scripture and the Church Fathers, avoiding sentimental excess. This patristic approach influenced the Second Vatican Council's theological language, especially *Lumen Gentium*'s teaching on Mary. He also proposed the Greek patristic idea of **deification** (Christ's indwelling) in his 1837 *Lectures on Justification* as a fresh middle path between Catholic and Lutheran views. This concept helped shape modern ecumenical dialogue on justification. Newman's Anglican-informed scholarship continues to enrich Catholic theology and ecumenical understanding, bridging divides even after his conversion.

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 10 AUGUST 2025 – YEAR C 19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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

Saturday	16	5.30pm	St Edward's Vigil	
Sunday	17	9.30am	St Joseph's	
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	18	10am	St Joseph's	
Tuesday	19	5.30pm	St Edward's	St John Eudes
Wednesday	20	10am	St Peter's	St Bernard
Thursday	21	10am	St Joseph's	St Pius X
Friday	22	10am	St Peter's	Queenship of the Bld Virgin Mary
Saturday	23	10am	St Peter's	St Rose of Lima

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: <https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough> ****

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: *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.*

RECENTLY DEAD Margaret Rogers (*Mary Blurton's sister*) **ANNIV'S:** Joseph Davey Nightingale; **MASS ATTENDANCE:** **Saturday Vigil** St Edward's **81** (est); **Sunday:** St Joseph's **176**; St Peter's **192**; Polish **80** (est); **Total 529**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose plate: **£827**; Gift Aid Envelopes: **£342**; Av. Standing Orders: **£740** (av.); Contactless **£80**(est); Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,959**; **ONLINE GIVING** Parish bank account: Barclays Bank Account No: **50003417**, Sort Code: **20-56-90**, Account name: **Diocese of Middlesbrough**. Include a **reference** - your name, if you are Gift Aiding (you will need to sign up if haven't already). OR donate online at <https://donate.mydona.com/st-peters-church-scarborough> OR use the QR code (see left). **300 CLUB WINNER: £25 No.79; £10 No.84; £1 to join, 2 numbers.**



WELCOME to visitors to Scarborough who have joined us for Mass this weekend.

WELCOME to Fr Paul Dowling, who is moving to **Our Lady Star of the Sea** parishes of Bridlington, Filey and Eastfield to assist Fr Albert.

UCM SUMMER MEAL at the Three Jolly Sailors: **12 noon Tue 19 Aug.** Cost £10.

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.

SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN (1801-1890) Pope **Leo XIV** will officially declare him the **38th Doctor** of the Church. He was **canonised** at Cofton Park Birmingham in **2010** by Pope Benedict XVI, He will become the **2nd English Doctor** of the Church along with **St Bede the Venerable of Jarrow (673-735AD)**. Full article on front of newsletter.

ST JOSEPH'S PORCH TOILET is being updated. New toilet and sink unit and hot water and new flooring and new window to be fitted this week. In the meantime, use the **Sacristy** toilet or the one **near Sister Rita Room**. The total cost of the project £3,000 approx. We will organise a Garden Party Fundraiser sometime in September to help pay for the toilet and window and new non slip flooring.

THE PARISH CENTRE SHED at front focuses on **Our Lady's Assumption and Queenship of Mary**. Thanks to UCM for the display.

SOME RECENT EXPENSES Hedge and tree pruning **£450**, new replacement carpets for upstairs in 2 rooms in St Peter's Parish Centre **£644**, Flooring for St Joseph's toilet **£511**, First Holy Communion party **£120**, Coach hire for First Holy Communion retreat **£140**, Bishop for Confirmations **£200**, votive and church candles **£1,268**, organists **£200**, 6 months' supply of altar breads **£276**, recent printing costs **£193**, new filing cabinets for flowers and food bank storage **£619**, Parish Dinner wine (12 bottles) **£252**, photocopier for St Joseph's **£778**

ST PETERS READERS (PROCLAIMERS) NEW ROTA available to collect from the back of church. **Readers** - a reminder that you are **Gods mouthpiece** when you read. There should be a **silent pause of 20 seconds** after **1st Reading** & before **Gospel Acclamation**. Wear smart attire. Check out the Readings & Bidding Prayers before Mass begins. ST JOSEPHS/ST EDWARDS ROTAS posted at the back of church

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH REPLACEMENT HEATING-UPDATE. The present system of **radiators** can no longer be used as there is leakage under the concrete floor which also contains asbestos. The best advice given to us is to **place up on the side walls** of the church **INFRA RED HEATERS**, powered by electricity. Cost **£250 each to buy** with manufacturers guarantee of **10 years**. Each one would be on a timer. There is the cost of 3 phase electric cable to be fitted for they to work/ new Fuse board, & electricians' fees. The other alternative is **HALO INFRA RED HEATERS** hanging like chandeliers from the ceiling. Each chandelier cost **£1,850**. This too is being investigated at the moment to work out costs. It's important to state they heat up the church to a certain temperature despite the many windows. We are in constant touch and seeking advice from the Properties Department in the Diocese and Historic Churches Committee. We need to move quickly as autumn and winter approaches. Comments or suggestions or advice is welcome. See YouTube, Infra-Red/Infra-Red Chandelier Heaters.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH BOUNDARY FENCE We are exploring planting a hedge around the front of the car park, ie. what is the best hedging to plant which would have low maintenance. I need advice from anyone who is knowledgeable about such things. We would employ, if necessary, someone from a Garden Centre. When the hedge firmly establishes, we would remove the concrete posts & boundary chain which have been there for years possibly since 1960 when the church first opened. **Your comments and advice please.**

NEW PHOTOCOPIER FOR ST JOSEPH'S is in the **St John Henry Newman Room** for church use only. Can use a USB. Cost £778.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 'A' LEVEL students who received their results during the week. Now for the next chapter of your life.

VJ 80 (15th August 1945) was the end of **World War 2**. We will gather at the **Church War Memorial** after 11.30am Mass to lay a wreath.

THE YEW TREE OUTSIDE St Edwards church will be pruned shortly. We have received permission to do so as it's a Conservation area.

SUNDAY SMILE: *I didn't order anything from Amazon in the last 45 minutes, so they sent a delivery driver to check I was OK!*