



### ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS (NÉE EDITH STEIN 1891-1942)

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross is a significant figure in the history of the Catholic Church and a symbol of faith and resilience. Her journey from a Jewish girl to a Catholic saint and the patron saint of Europe is marked by profound spiritual transformation and commitment to her beliefs.

**Early Life and Jewish Heritage:** Born on 12 October 1891 in Breslau, Poland, Edith was the youngest of eleven children in a devout Jewish family. Her birth coincided with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which many believe foreshadowed her spiritual journey. After her father, a timber merchant, died when she was just two, her mother raised the family alone, instilling in them a sense of worth and faith. However, as Edith grew older, she struggled to maintain her Jewish beliefs and, by the age of fourteen, consciously decided to abandon her religious practices.

**Academic Pursuits and Philosophical Influences:** Edith excelled academically, completing her school-leaving exams with distinction and enrolling at the University of Breslau to study German and history. However, her true interests lay in philosophy and women's issues, leading her to join the Prussian Society for Women's Franchise. In 1913, she transferred to Göttingen University to study under the renowned philosopher Edmund Husserl, under whom she engaged deeply with his phenomenological philosophy, which emphasised a return to the essence of things. Her dissertation earned her a doctorate in philosophy. During this time, she also met Max Scheler, who directed her attention to Roman Catholicism. This exposure began to challenge her previous beliefs and opened her heart to the possibility of faith.

**Spiritual Awakening and Conversion:** A pivotal moment in Edith's spiritual journey occurred during World War I when she volunteered as a nurse in an Austrian field hospital. This experience exposed her to the harsh realities of suffering and death, prompting her to reflect on the meaning of life and faith. While caring for the sick, she witnessed profound acts of faith, which deeply impacted her. In 1917, after the death of her friend Adolf Reinach, Edith visited his widow, who had converted to Protestantism. This encounter transformed her; she described it as her first experience with the Cross and the divine power it imparts. She later wrote, "This was the moment when my unbelief collapsed and Christ began to shine his light on me." This realisation marked the beginning of her journey toward Christianity.

By the end of 1918, Edith had developed a conviction that her life was part of God's divine plan. She expressed her belief that everything in her life had been mapped out by God's providence, leading her to a living faith. On 1 January 1922, she was baptised into the Catholic Church, a moment she described as a profound awakening to truth.

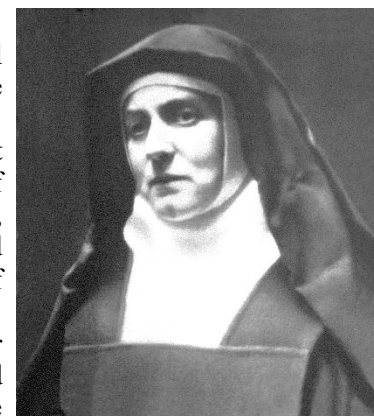
**Embracing the Carmelite Life:** After her conversion, Edith felt a strong calling to join the Carmelite Order. However, her spiritual mentors advised her to wait. She took a position teaching German and history at a Dominican Sisters' school in Speyer, where she continued to explore her faith and engage in scholarly pursuits. During this time, she also began to write extensively, contributing to philosophical discussions and translating works of significant theologians.

In 1933, as anti-Semitism intensified in Germany, Edith recognised the dangers posed by the Nazi regime. She became increasingly aware of her Jewish heritage and the implications it had for her life. Despite the challenges, she remained committed to her faith and her people. Finally, in October 1933, after taking a vow of poverty, chastity, and obedience, Edith joined the Carmelite Convent in Cologne, taking the name Sister Teresa Benedicta a Cruce (Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross). Her entry into the Carmelite Order was a profound commitment to a life of prayer, contemplation, and intercession for her people. She believed that her vocation was to intercede for others, particularly her Jewish community, during a time of growing persecution. Edith continued her intellectual pursuits. She wrote extensively, producing works that integrated her philosophical insights with her faith, and taught on women's issues and the nature of faith. She made her eternal profession on 21 April 1938, and had the words of St John of the Cross printed on her devotional picture: *"Henceforth my only vocation is to love."* Her final work was to be devoted to this author.

**Final Years and Martyrdom:** The rise of the Nazi regime brought increasing peril to her life. In 1938, the anti-Semitic policies of the Nazis became more pronounced, and Edith recognised that her safety in Germany was at risk. On 2 August 1942, Edith Stein was arrested by the Gestapo while attending Mass at the convent. She was taken to a transit camp in Amersfoort and later to Westerbork, where she remained steadfast in her faith, praying for her fellow Jews and expressing her deep compassion for their suffering. Edith's final words to her sister Rosa, who was also arrested, were, *"Come, we are going for our people."* On 9 August 1942, she and her sister were deported to Auschwitz, where they were gassed shortly after their arrival. Edith's martyrdom was a testament to her unwavering faith and her commitment to her people, even in the face of death.

**Canonisation and Legacy:** Edith Stein was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 1 May 1987, who also canonised her 11 October 1998. Pope At her beatification, John Paul II recognised her as a 'daughter of Israel' and a faithful follower of Christ during the Nazi persecution. He also declared her **co-patron saint of Europe** in 1999, alongside St Catherine of Siena and St Bridget of Sweden to emphasise the significant role women have played in Europe's history and to highlight her as a symbol of Europe's struggles and hopes. She is the only twentieth-century figure among the patrons of Europe, representing a more recent chapter in the continent's history. In April 2024, during a private audience Pope Francis received a formal request from the superior general of the Discalced Carmelites, Miguel Márquez Calle, to declare Edith Stein a Doctor of the Church.

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, née Edith Stein's life is a powerful narrative of faith, intellectual pursuit, and unwavering commitment to Truth. Her journey from a Jewish girl to a Catholic saint exemplifies her deep search for meaning and her ultimate sacrifice for her beliefs. She serves as an inspiration for many, embodying the virtues of compassion, courage, and faithfulness in the face of adversity.



MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 3 AUGUST 2025 – YEAR C				18TH 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	2	5.30pm	St Edward's Vigil	
Sunday	3	9.30am	St Joseph's	
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	4	10am	St Joseph's	St John Vianney
Tuesday	5	5.30pm	St Edward's	Dedication of Basilica of St Mary Major
Wednesday	6	10am	St Peter's	TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Thursday	7	10am	St Joseph's	St Cajetan / St Sixtus & Comp / Bl. Nicholas Postgate
Friday	8	10am	St Peter's	St Dominic
Saturday	9	10am	St Peter's	ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS
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: 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: Tadeusz Cholewinski; ANNIV'S: Bill Murray, Brenda Lightfoot, T M Joseph, Canon James Dolan; MASS ATTENDANCE: Saturday Vigil: St Edward's 78; Sunday: St Joseph's 134; St Peter's 195; Polish 80 (est); Total 487; OFFERINGS: Loose plate: £692; Gift Aid Envelopes: £334; Av. Standing Orders: £740 (av.); Contactless £80; Polish: £30; Total £1,876; 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 <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.56; £10 No.91. £1 to join, 2 numbers.				



**DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EUROPE** is this **Sat 9 Aug**, the last of five such days of prayer, and coincides with the Feast Day of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, the only 20th-century figure among the patrons of Europe. See front cover article on St Teresa's life, her spiritual awakening and conversion from Jew to Catholic and entry into the Descalced Carmelite Order, and martyrdom during the Holocaust.

**ANNUAL ASSUMPTION PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT GRACE** for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady will be on **Sunday 17 August** at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley. **Rosary at 2.30pm, Mass at 3pm** followed by refreshments. Pilgrims encouraged to bring their own seating. Car parking available in a field at the top of North End, opposite Rueberry Lane. No vehicles are permitted up Rueberry Lane, but lifts up the hill will be available from the car park to the Lady Chapel for those who have difficulty walking. This is a beautiful event, and the Shrine is a designated Pilgrimage Site for the Year of Hope. Why not consider car sharing...

**THE WAY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT GRACE** The **2025 Jubilee year** focuses on the theme "**Pilgrims of Hope**," and walking pilgrimages encouraged as a way to experience the Jubilee and its message of grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The Way of Our Lady of Mount Grace is a **26-mile designated pilgrimage route within our Diocese**, beginning at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough which takes **2-3 days** to walk, passing Roseberry Topping, Captain Cook's Monumen and following parts of the Cleveland Way before reaching the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace at Osmotherley. Further details on the route at <https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/middlesbrough>

**UCM SUMMER MEAL** at the Three Jolly Sailors: **12 noon Tue 19 Aug**. Cost £10. Menu choices to be returned by 12 August.

**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 for names **Friday 15 August**.

**EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** assist the priest in distributing Holy Communion at Mass & sometimes bringing Holy Communion to the housebound. Come up is at the **Our Father**. Remain in the sanctuary **until tabernacle door is closed** and, as a sign of reverence, face the tabernacle. Be sure to sign the book in sacristy when taking out holy communion to the housebound. New Ministers will be commissioned **at the Spa** in September. *Purify your hands with water before and after and always purify pyx with water.*

**ST PETER'S READERS ROTA** starts **this Sunday** up to All Saints. Copies are on the table at the back of the church.

**HOLY SHOPS** at St Peter's and St Joseph's is open after Sunday Masses there – do call in. Lots of cards and statues and Rosaries etc on sale  
**65 YEARS OF ST JOSEPHS CHURCH PARISH DINNER & TABLE QUIZ** was well attended on Friday 1 August. Our thanks goes to North Cliff Golf Club Staff.

**PARISH SECRETARY** is on leave from **9 to 17 August**. All enquiries to Fr Gubbins during this period.

**ST JOSEPH'S PORCH TOILET** is being renovated and is **CLOSED**. Use the Sacristy toilet or the one near the **SISTER RITA ROOM**.

**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HEATING REPLACEMENT** We had site meeting on Friday 1st August and project work will go out to tender.

**NYC PARKING PERMIT** found in St Peter's car park, valid up until 21 October 2025. Contact the parish office giving your registration number

**COULD YOU SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL?** St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust is looking for practising Catholics (18 and over) to join the Local Governance Board of our local Catholic primary and secondary schools as volunteer governors. Experience not essential. 2 hrs p/mth av. Contact Naomi Bedworth at the Trust at: [communications@srcat.org](mailto:communications@srcat.org)

**SUNDAY SMILE:** *Husband: Did you know women use about 30,000 words a day while men use 15,000. Wife: Yes, that's because we have to repeat everything. Husband: What did you say?*