



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

14 SEPTEMBER 2025: EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE: Week 4

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

The Feast of the Triumph of the Cross is also known as *Exaltation of the Cross, Elevation of the Cross, Holy Cross Day, Cross Mass, Holy Rood Day, or Roodmas*. It commemorates the finding of the Holy Cross by St Helena, the dedication of churches built by Constantine, and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem.

Discovery of the Cross: Tradition holds that, in around AD326, **St Helena**, the Roman Emperor Constantine's mother and convert to Christianity, pilgrimaged to the Holy Land to locate where the important events in the life of Jesus occurred, and to preserve any remaining Christian relics, particularly the Cross on which Jesus was crucified. Assisted by the Bishop of Caesarea, Eusebius (early church historian) and Bishop of Jerusalem, St Macarius, she discovered the spot and found the True Cross. Macarius initiated excavations to ascertain the location of Calvary and of the Holy Sepulchre. During the excavations, the wood of the Cross was found and Macarius determined it to be authentic. **The crosses of the Two Thieves were also recovered.** The **Emperor Constantine** built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre over the two holiest sites in the whole of Christianity - the Rock of Golgotha and the Tomb of Christ.



In the **7th century** the Cross had fallen into the hands of Chosroas, King of the Persians. The precious relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius in AD 629. The lessons from the Breviary tell us that Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross back to Jerusalem on his shoulders, clothed in rich garments with ornaments of precious stones. But at the entrance to Mt Calvary a strange incident occurred. Try as hard as he would, he could not go forward. Zacharias, the Bishop of Jerusalem, then said to the astonished monarch: "*Consider, O Emperor, that with these triumphal ornaments you are far from resembling Jesus carrying His Cross.*" The emperor then put on a penitential garb and continued the journey.

Feast Day and Veneration: The True Cross was a most valuable treasure of the Church and became highly-venerated in the Feast honouring the Elevation of the Holy Cross. It was celebrated on 3 May in the old Roman calendar (date of its discovery), and on 14 September in Jerusalem and on the new Roman calendar (the date the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated). The Second Council of Nicæa of AD787, drew the distinction between **veneration** of the cross and **worship** or *latria* - the latter of which, "*according to the teaching of the faith, belongs to the Divine nature alone.*" Therefore, when we venerate the cross, the honour paid to the object, relic or image passes to the prototype - the person whom it represents.

Meaning of the Triumph of the Cross: When Moses lifted up the bronze serpent over the people, it was a foreshadowing of the salvation through Jesus, when He was lifted up on the Cross. The celebration of this Feast Day is therefore a triumphant one. The cross of triumph is usually pictured as a globe with the cross on top, symbolic of the triumph of our Saviour over the sin of the world, and world conquest of His Gospel through the means of a grace (**cross and orb** - see right). Our Mother Church sings of the triumph of the Cross, the instrument of our redemption. To follow Christ, we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross. We identify with Christ on the Cross and become co-redeemers, sharing in His cross.



Sign of the Cross: At **Baptism**, we are sealed with the **Sign of the Cross**, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. We make the **Sign of the Cross** before and **after prayer**, on **entering the church** at the start of Mass, and many other times, in order to fix our minds and hearts to God and keep close to Him. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. Let us look to the cross frequently, and realise that when we make the Sign of the Cross, we give our entire self to God, mind, soul, heart, body, will.

Suggested Things to Do: Make sure that crucifixes are **displayed** prominently throughout your home. Point out the crucifix in every room even to the smallest ones, and explain its meaning. Encourage your children to make reparation for sin and teach them a short prayer such as "*Through the sign of the Cross deliver us from sin, O God!*". Study different symbols and types of crosses, history and/or significance (ideas here: www.planetgast.net/symbols/crosses/crosses.html). Have an art project with your children, creating crosses using different media, including paper, or decorate some cakes with a cross. Pray the prayer to Christ Crucified or Stations of the Cross. Tradition holds that sweet basil grew over the hill where St Helena found the Holy Cross, so in Greece the faithful are given sprigs of basil by the priest.

PRAYER *O God, who willed that Your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known His mystery on earth, may merit the grace of His redemption in heaven. For You placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered through Christ. O cross, You are the glorious sign of victory. Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus. We adore you Christ and we praise you, for by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Amen*

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 14 SEPTEMBER 2025 – YEAR C EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSSMasses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough>

Saturday	13	5.30pm	St Edward's Vigil	
Sunday	14	9.30am	St Joseph's	EXHALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	EDUCATION SUNDAY
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	15	10am	St Joseph's	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>
Tuesday	16	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>Ss Cornelius & Cyprian</i>
Wednesday	17	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Robert Bellarmine / St Hildegard of Bingen</i>
Thursday	18	10am	St Joseph's	
Friday	19	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Theodore of Canterbury / St Januarius</i>
Saturday	20	10am	St Peter's	<i>Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang & Comp</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: <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 SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: *Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.*

LATELY DEAD: Phyl Pennock, Winifred Shearme, Una Ferguson; **ANNIV'S:** Vivienne Carr, Marie Carr, Joseph MK, Mathai AJ, Maureen Porter, Eileen Shakespeare, Sean McEvey, Anne Munslow, Angelo Schembri; **MASS ATTENDANCE:** Saturday Vigil: St Edward's 80 (est); Sunday: St Joseph's 141; St Peter's 201; Polish 80 (est); **Total 502; OFFERINGS:** Loose plate: £727; Gift Aid Envelopes: £301; Av. Standing Orders: £740 (av.); Contactless £75; Polish: £30; **Total £1,873; 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.myдона.com/st-peters-church-scarborough> OR use the QR code. **300 CLUB WINNERS: £100 No.24.** £1 for 2 numbers if you wish to join.

**WELCOME BACK** to Fr Gubbins this Tuesday. We hope he is well rested and rejuvenated after his holiday.**REQUIEM MASS** of Phyl Pennock: **12 noon on Thursday 25 September** at St Peter's Church.**FUNERAL SERVICE** of Winifred Shearme: **12 noon on Tuesday 23 September** at Woodlands Crematorium.**EDUCATION SUNDAY** is this Sunday 14 September and is an annual day of prayer and celebration for Catholic education. There will be a talk at each Mass this weekend.**UCM SEPTEMBER MEETING** on Tue 16 Sept will be a visit to Bridlington Priory with Fr Albert. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr Albert at 11.30am followed by a tour of the Priory. Shared lunch will be in the Parish Hall. Please bring food for the shared table. Transport is by car share, so please arrange this will fellow members. Depart Scarborough **10.30am**. Please go directly to the Priory for 11.30am Mass.**VISIT OF THE RELIC OF ST CARLO ACUTIS** The First-Class Relic of Saint Carlo will be in our parishes from **Saturday 20 to Tuesday 23 September** (note Monday and Tuesday are reserved for school groups). A separate **Events Programme is now available** at all churches this weekend. The Relic will now also visit the Ministers Day at the Spa for veneration (only for those signed up to attend).**VOLUNTARY COLLECTION** at all Masses next weekend towards the cost of St Carlo Acutis Relic Visit.**MINISTERS INSPIRATIONAL STUDY DAY AT THE SPA:** Sat 20 Sept at Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough. **Starts 9.20am. Concludes 3pm** after Mass. 26 attending from our parishes. The Relic of St Carlo Acutis will be there for veneration.**INSTRUCTION FOR CONVERTS (RCIA)** resumes on Saturday 27 September – 11.30am to 12.30pm in St Peter's Presbtery for anyone who is thinking of becoming a Catholic.**GARDEN PARTY FUNDRAISER** at the home of a parishioner **1pm to 3pm on Saturday 27 September**. Admission **£1** to raise funds to pay towards the cost of the updated porch toilet. Total cost of the toilet update was **£3,237**. This includes fitting a new disabled toilet, new sink unit with hot water tank, new safety flooring and a new window. **NOTE** the sink hot water can be very **hot**.**TOMBOLA PRIZES, BOTTLES & CAKES** needed for the **Garden Party** for Saturday 27 September.**NEW BABY CHANGING AREA** has been installed at St Joseph's Church. Please take nappies home in bag provided.**SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE** a St Joseph's parishioner is raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support by participating in the 100-mile sponsored cycle ride on **Sun 14 Sept**. The route is Scarborough to Beverley and Hornsea and back. If you would like to support her, please go to our parish Facebook for a link.**HEADTEACHER VACANCY** Are you a passionate and visionary leader ready to shape the future of a vibrant Catholic primary school? Do you believe in nurturing every child's potential through faith, love, and learning? St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust welcomes applications from practising and committed Catholics for the post of Headteacher at Our Lady & St Peter RC Primary School in Bridlington. We are seeking a dedicated Headteacher who will lead our school community with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to the teachings of Christ. This is a unique opportunity to build upon our strong foundations and guide us into an exciting new chapter. Full advert, job description and application pack: <https://tinyurl.com/OLSPHead> **Closing date: Monday 15 September.****UNIDENTIFIED CASH** Someone has put some cash through the letterbox at St Peter's Church with no note and no name on it. Could whoever has done this please identify themselves. **IMPORTANT** Anyone wishing to give any money to the church, put it **in an envelope** with your **name** on and **what the money is for**. Put your envelope in the collections bag or give it to Fr Gubbins or Liz White in order to **be sure money safely reaches us**, as the Rectory entrance is used by various people.**SUNDAY SMILE:** *A hacker called me and said he had all my passwords. I said "thank goodness – what are they?!"*