



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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28 SEPTEMBER 2025: 26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE: Week 2

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX (1873-1897)

This Tuesday 1 October we celebrate the Feast of **St Thérèse of the Child Jesus**, also known as the **St Thérèse of Lisieux**, **St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face** and the **"Little Flower"**. St Thérèse left a spiritual legacy that did not become well known until after her passing but have since impacted and influenced generations of Catholics worldwide by deepening their relationship with Christ. She is known as the **'Little Flower of Jesus'** because she compared herself to a wildflower in God's garden and believed that she gave glory to God by being herself.

Marie-Francoise-Thérèse Martin was born in 1873 in Alençon, France, to devout Catholics Zélie and Louis Martin (both parents would eventually be canonised together by Pope Francis in 2015). Thérèse was one of five surviving children of nine. **Her four sisters, Marie, Pauline, Léonie and Céline, also became Carmelite nuns.**

Thérèse was a weak and frail infant, cared for by a wet nurse for the first year and a half of her life. But she grew to be a lively, intelligent and generally happy child; candid though stubborn. She thrived on the love which surrounded her in her very Christian home. Prayer, Mass, and practical good works formed the basis for her ardent love of Jesus she gained – the desire to please Him and the Virgin Mary.

Unfortunately, these times soon come to an end. **Thérèse's mother died of a in 1877** when Thérèse was just **four years old**. The once lively Thérèse became timid and withdrawn. **The family moved to Lisieux, Normandy.** Her older sister, **Pauline**, took over the role of **"mother"** and Thérèse became very close to her. Thérèse was home-educated until the age of eight, when she entered the Benedictine run school of the Abbey of Notre Dame du Pré in Lisieux. Here, the already well-educated Thérèse achieved high grades, but was bullied for her achievements and success. She later described her experience here as the saddest of her life.

In 1882, aged nine, her sister Pauline entered the Descalced Carmelite convent at Lisieux. Thérèse was devastated. She understood that Pauline was cloistered and that she would never come back and felt that she had lost her. She then also desired to join the Carmelites, but was told she was too young. However, Mother Marie Gonzague, the prioress, was so impressed with Thérèse that she wrote to comfort her, calling her **"my little daughter Thérèse of the Child Jesus"**.

At about this time, **Thérèse fell seriously ill**. She suffered intensely from constant headaches and insomnia, fits of fever and trembling and cruel hallucinations. Doctors were unable to diagnose her, and no treatments helped. Then, Thérèse turned her head to a statue of the Virgin near her bed and prayed for a cure. "Suddenly" she wrote, "Mary's face radiated kindness and love." Thérèse felt cured. The statue has since been called **"Our Lady of the Smile."** During her long illness, Thérèse's resolve to join the Carmelites grew stronger, and her determination to do something great for God and for others. She reaffirmed her life's goals, and was intelligent enough at her young age to realise she could not accomplish them without suffering. What was hidden from her eyes was just how much she would have to endure to win her glory.

Around this time, Thérèse had become very close to sister Marie, but Thérèse was dealt another hard blow when Marie also entered the Lisieux Carmel. Thérèse had lost her third "mother". But after midnight Mass on Christmas of that same year, after meditating on the love that was Christ's gift of himself, that shadow of depression and uncertainty suddenly lifted, leaving Thérèse in possession of a new calm and inner conviction through grace. That night, "God worked a little miracle to make me grow up in an instant," she said, years later. This was a turning point, which she would later call her "complete conversion". Now, she felt able to fulfil her dream of entering the Carmel as soon as possible to love Jesus and pray for sinners. In May 1887, Thérèse approached her 63-year-old father and told him that she wanted to celebrate the anniversary of "her conversion" by entering Carmel before Christmas. But again, she was not permitted due to her youth.

During that summer, French newspapers were filled with the story of Pranzini, a convicted murderer sentenced to the guillotine, who showed no remorse. Thérèse prayed hard for his conversion so his soul could be saved. At the very moment of his execution, he grabbed a crucifix and kissed it three times. Thérèse was ecstatic and believed that her prayers had saved him and continued to pray for Pranzini after his death. **In November of that year, while on a diocesan pilgrimage to Rome for the priestly jubilee of Pope Leo XIII, Thérèse asked him to allow her to enter Carmel, to which he responded, "Well, my child, do what the superiors decide... You will enter if it is God's Will"** and he blessed her. During that pilgrimage she came to understand that priests, who until then she had deemed quite spotless, were no less subject to human weakness than others, and that they, as much as any sinner, needed prayer. Around this time, Thérèse also experienced for the first time the affection of a man, but this only served to reaffirm her resolve to join Carmel. This time the Bishop of Bayeux authorised the prioress to receive Thérèse. In April 1888 she became a postulant in the Carmel of Lisieux.

Thérèse spent nine years in the Carmel of Lisieux. Life in the convent was a full schedule, with prayer times that took up about seven hours a day. Work was done in solitude and the nuns followed a code of silence. **Within Carmel Thérèse discovered her vocation of hiddenness through her devotion to the Holy Face.** She accepted criticism in silence, even unjust criticisms, and smiled at the Sisters, who were unpleasant to her. **She grew in love and sanctity, perfecting her "Little Way" of consecrating to God everything she did, no matter how trivial. She prayed without great sensitive emotions and increased the small acts of charity and care for others, doing small services.** She realised that she felt small and insignificant, and that she needed to learn to ask God for help. A passage from Proverbs struck her with particular force: **"Whosoever is a little one, let him come to me" (Proverbs 9:4).** From another passage from the Book of Isaiah (66:12-13) Thérèse concluded that Jesus would carry her to the summit of sanctity. The smallness of Thérèse - her limits - became in this way grounds for joy, rather than discouragement. It wasn't until her autobiography that she gave this discovery the name of **"little way" (petite voie).** **The "Little Way" of Thérèse is the foundation of her spirituality.**

Thérèse's final years were marked by a steady decline that she bore resolutely and without complaint. **Tuberculosis** was the key element of Thérèse's final suffering. Confined to the infirmary at Carmel, at the request of her Prioress she spent her time writing out her life story. This manuscript eventually became part of her book **"Story of a Soul"** (L'histoire d'un Ame).

St Thérèse **died just 24 years old**. But believing that her life was really just beginning for God, she promised to spend her heaven doing good on earth. Within months, the Carmelites at Lisieux began to receive reports of "favours and graces" attributed to St Thérèse.

Her canonisation took place in 1925. In 1997, St Thérèse was declared a **Doctor of the Church** by Pope John Paul II, making her the second Carmelite nun to receive that distinction after St Teresa of Avila. Pope John Paul II stated: **"Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face is the youngest of all the Doctors of the Church, but her ardent spiritual journey shows such maturity, and the insights of faith expressed in her writings are so vast and profound that they deserve a place among the great spiritual masters."**



MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 28 SEPTEMBER 2025 – YEAR C 26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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

Saturday	27	5.30pm	St Edward's Vigil	
Sunday	28	9.30am	St Joseph's	<i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i>
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	29	10am	St Joseph's	<i>SS MICHAEL GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS</i>
Tuesday	30	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>St Jerome</i>
Wednesday	1	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (of Lisieux)</i>
Thursday	2	10am	St Joseph's	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>
Friday	3	10am	St Peter's	<i>Harvest Fast Day</i>
Saturday	4	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Francis of Assisi</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 OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION: *that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.*

LATELY DEAD: Betty Woods, Jean Butterfield; **ANNIV'S:** Brian Murphy, Teresa Greenaway, Geraldine Wilkinson; **MASS ATTENDANCE:** Saturday Vigil St Edward's 73; Sunday: St Joseph's 164; St Peter's 207; Polish 50 (est); **Total 494**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose plate: £654; Gift Aid Envelopes: £315; Av. Standing Orders: £740 (av.); Contactless £1,160; Polish: £30; **Total £2,899**; **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.
300 CLUB WINNERS: £25 No.36; £10 No.137. £1 for 2 numbers.



MISSIONARY SISTER MARY SEBASTIAN of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ will make an appeal at all weekend Masses this weekend. There will be a retiring collection at all weekend Masses.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR returns to lead St Peter's 11.30am Mass this Sunday. Rehearsal at 10.30am in the Parish Centre.

SVP MEETING 6.30pm on Wednesday 1 October in St Edward's Hall.

INSTRUCTION FOR CONVERTS (RCIA) has resumed on Saturdays at 11.30am to 12.30pm in St Peter's Rectory for anyone who is thinking of becoming a Catholic.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY falls on Fri 3 Oct. Please give generously to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours to help find lasting solutions to poverty. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year. Pick a CAFOD envelope up from back of church, or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or use this QR code to go to a virtual envelope. You can also call 0303 303 3030 or text CAFOD to 70560 to donate.



MISSIO RED BOX APPEAL Next weekend 4/5 October we will welcome Fr Emmanuel Ebeh, Missio Appeals Coordinator, to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY October is traditionally the Month of the Holy Rosary in the Catholic Church because the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on 7 October. Try to pray at least a decade at home with your family.

A PLENARY INDULGENCE may be gained during October by those reciting 5 decades of the Rosary in church, as a family at home, as a religious community or as a pious fraternity, or whenever several persons have gathered together for a good purpose, and in other circumstances a partial indulgence.

HARVEST LUNCH (NOT SUPPER) to celebrate the Season of Creation and fruits of the harvest and friendship with each other: Wed 22 October in St Peter's Parish Centre after 11.30am Mass.

A TIN A WEEK Scarborough SVP collects for needy persons and families. Can you spare a tin a week for this, or some toiletries or dried produce (must have a long date). There is a collection box at the back of each church. Jesus says, "I was hungry you gave me to eat".

COLLECTION FOR THE VISIT OF THE RELIC amounted to £293. Thank you. We topped it up to give Anna a total of £650.

MICHAEL O'BRIEN is raising money for Pancreatic Cancer UK through *Walk 31 Miles in October for Pancreatic Cancer UK*. Some of you may know that Michal underwent major surgery for pancreatic cancer three months ago in Hull. He is currently having chemo treatment at Scarborough Hospital. Please consider sponsoring him by visiting his JustGiving page at https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Michael1756589047125?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA

CONTACTLESS GIVING UPDATE We have seen a marked uplift in moneys received via our contact devices. From January 2025 to date, we have received the following: Collections £9,345 (of which £7,261 was gift aided); St Peter's Restoration Fund £153; Holy shops £806. A big thank you for all your offerings and donations, no matter how they have been made.

SUNDAY SMILE: Q. What is the difference between swine flu and bird flu? A. One needs oinkment and the other, tweetment!