



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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St Joseph's Presbytery

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Castle Road, YO11 1TH

St Edward the Confessor

Avenue Victoria, YO11 2QS

30 NOVEMBER 2025: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GOSPEL YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE: Week 1

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

What do we mean when we speak of the Liturgical Year? The simplest answer is that it is the **Catholic Church's calendar** – the *annual cycle* which celebrates the mysteries of Christ, the Blessed Virgin, the Angels and the Saints, through the Church's liturgy (the Mass, the Divine Office, and other forms of public worship). The liturgical year begins with the **First Sunday of Advent** (usually the first Sunday of December) and closes with the **Feast of Christ the King** (usually the last Sunday of November).

The Catholic liturgical calendar has evolved during the history of the Church. **The purpose of such a calendar was to trace the mystery of salvation and the course of salvation history.** The idea of this is to make sacred the ordinary time of a twelve-month calendar. Pope Pius XII wrote, *"By commemorating the mysteries of the Saviour, the sacred liturgy strives to bring all believers to participate in them in such a way that the divine Head of the Mystical Body may live in each of His members with the fullness of His holiness"* (Mediator Dei, #152).

The idea of **sanctifying the year** was not new to Christians. **We inherited this notion from our Jewish ancestors** of the Old Testament. In the *Book of Leviticus, Chapter 23*, we find the Jewish calendar which speaks of a week of seven days, with six for work and the **seventh day, the Sabbath, for rest and for "sacred assembly"**. This Sabbath Day belongs to the Lord. Leviticus then continues to speak of the dates of Passover, Yom Kippur, and other special feast days. We see the beginnings of the Christian calendar in the early Church when, for example, the **Christians changed the Lord's Day to Sunday**, in honour of the resurrection: *"On the first day of the week when we gathered for the breaking of the bread..."* (Acts 20:7). Fridays were designated as days of penance and sacrifice, in honour of our Lord's Sacrifice of Himself for our sins on Good Friday, which is observed to this day. In the early Church, the Didache (AD 80) also marked Wednesdays as a day of penance and prayer. By the **10th century**, especially in the western Church, our Blessed Mother was honoured on Saturdays. Over the centuries, the Church has punctuated the course of the year with Feast Days or Holy Days. In the midst of our normal routine, these days help **focus our attention on Christ and the mystery of Salvation**. Several Feast Days are dedicated to our Blessed Mother, who participated intimately in the Mystery of Salvation, eg. the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1 January), the Annunciation (25 March), the Visitation (31 May), the Assumption (15 August), the Nativity of Mary (8 September), the Presentation of Mary (22 September) and the Immaculate Conception (8 December).

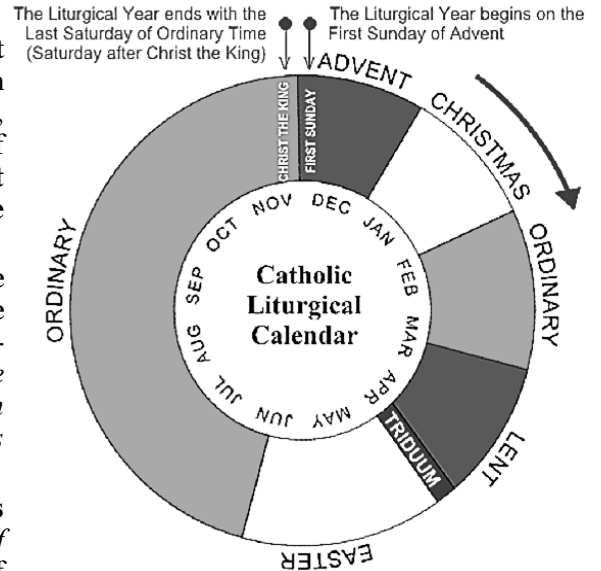
Many Feast Days commemorate the saints, who glorified Christ in their lives on earth and now share His glory in the Kingdom of Heaven. Their Feast Days usually correspond to the date of birth or death of the saint. Dates were established over time, sometimes varying according to locality. The **universal calendar** was promulgated by Pope Pius V in 1568, setting the Feast Days and their dates which would be celebrated throughout the whole Church. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, tells us that *"the feasts of the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in His servants and offer to the faithful fitting examples for their imitation"* (#111).

Finally, the calendar follows a series of seasons: The calendar begins with **Advent**, which focuses on the preparation for the birth of the Messiah. **Christmas Season** then follows, beginning with the birth of our Lord, celebrates the Epiphany, and concludes with the Baptism of the Lord. The Feast of Baptism of the Lord also commences the season of **Ordinary Time**, which traces the public ministry of Jesus. **Lent** interrupts Ordinary Time, and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) and prepares us for Easter. **Easter Season** begins with the Easter Vigil Mass, is followed by the 40 days leading to the Ascension and then concludes 10 days later with Pentecost. After Pentecost, Ordinary time resumes and concludes with the **Solemnity of Christ the King**, the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today marks the first Sunday of Advent and Mass began with the lighting of the first purple candle of the Advent wreath. Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning:

- The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolises Hope with the **"Prophet's Candle"** reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolises Faith with the **"Bethlehem Candle"** reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolises Joy with the **"Shepherd's Candle"** reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolises Peace with the **"Angel's Candle"** reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 30 NOVEMBER 2025: YEAR A FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Saturday	29	5.30pm	St Edward's Vigil	
Sunday	30	9am	St Mark's (St Joseph's temporary relocation)	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	1	10am	St Joseph's	
Tuesday	2	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Wednesday	3	10am	St Peter's	St Francis Xavier
Thursday	4	10am	St Joseph's	St John Damascene
Friday	5	10am	St Peter's	
Saturday	6	10am	St Peter's	St Nicholas

MASS IN SYRO-MALABAR RITE celebrated monthly **9.30am** 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 DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: *that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.* **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** Fridays 9.45am

RECENT DEAD: John Small; **ANNIV'S:** George Wilson, Pip Stankiste, Pam Grundy, Kevin O'Connor (Jnr), Ted Porter, Mary Hellawell, Peter Brown, Jean Hudson, Fr Joe Brennan; **ATTENDANCE:** **Saturday Vigil** St Edward's **71**; **Sunday:** St Joseph's **100**; St Peter's **174**; Polish **50** (est); **Total 395**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose plate: **£528**; Gift Aid Envelopes: **£245**; Av. Standing Orders: **£740** (av.); Contactless **£46**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,589**; **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 you haven't already). **OR** donate online at <https://donate.mydona.com/scarborough-parishes> **OR** use the **QR code**. **300 CLUB WEEKLY WINNERS: £25 No.234; £10 No.11 Congratulations!**



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS NOTICES

PASTORAL LETTER FOR ADVENT from our Bishop Terence Drainey to be read at all Masses this weekend.
PARISH ADVENT RETREAT DAY at St Hildas Priory, Sneaton Castle, Whitby, *possibly* **Tues16 or Thur18 Dec.**
ADVENT SPIRITUAL READING *Praying with the Psalms* or *Walk with Me* available at all churches. Give a small donation.
HOLY SHOPS on sale Christmas cards, Advent Calendars and Crib Scenes at St Peter's and St Joseph's.
I AM WITH YOU: ST CARLO ACUTIS Zoom video event **5pm on Sunday 30 November** today. Join and be inspired. To join on Zoom, enter **5747517232** to log in and **code 040420**.
ST MARK'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL Grand opening **7-9pm Fri 5 Dec.** Festival events **Sat 10-4pm & Sun 12-4pm:** Carols, artisan market, breakfast with Santa & Sat. evening concert. See St Mark's website or Facebook page. All welcome
ST AUGUSTINE'S CONFESSIONS for Advent/Christmas **1.30pm Wednesday 10 December** in the school.
UCM CHRISTMAS DINNER 12.30pm Wednesday 17 Dec at North Cliff Golf Club (for those who have booked)
PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD Holy Spirit Day of Reflection by Middlesbrough Diocesan Charismatic Service **10am-4pm Sat 13 Dec** at St Aelred's Church, York YO31 0PN: Info from Sharon (**07932 420809**) or Gerry (**07877 185219**)
CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S We will hire **2 industrial Gas Fires** for Christmas Eve & Christmas morning Masses

FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2026 For children in Non-Catholic Schools: Submit children's **name, address and telephone number** BY EMAIL OR LETTER to enrol. **Year 4 and above** eligible. Preparations begin **mid/late January 2026** - for children in non-Catholic schools: **6pm -7pm** possibly **Wednesdays** in St Peter's Parish Centre with Catechists. Preparation in St Peter's School: **Wednesdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm** and the school will be in touch with parents. First Holy Communion dates tbc but possibly be **Sat 6 & Sat 13 June 2026**.

CATECHISTS MEETING in St Peters Parish Centre **Friday 5 December 11am** to plan for 1st Holy Communion 2026

ST JOSEPH'S SUNDAY MASS is held in **ST MARK'S CHURCH** (opposite St Joseph's Green Lane) at **9am** (not 9.30am)

BAPTISM CONGRATS to Chiemerie David Uhama of Victoria Road, baptised at St Peter's Church last Sunday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY every Sunday at St Peter's during Advent (usually 1st Sunday) and every Sunday at St Joseph's.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR lead us in singing at St Peter's **11.30am** Mass today. Rehearsal 10.30am in Parish Centre.

ST JOSEPH'S 2026 READERS ROTA is available to collect from the back of St Joseph's or on your way out at St Mark's.

RAINBOW CENTRE CHRISTMAS APPEAL aims to raise **£10,000** to support Scarborough families & individuals struggling over Christmas, and are appealing for help to reach their target. Donate at: <https://justgiving.com/campaign/rainbowxmas>

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNERS for the **needy & vulnerable** at **Rainbow Centre**. Details on notice boards and on our Facebook page. They also need donations and volunteers.

SVP RETIRING COLLECTION for St Vincent De Paul group **next weekend** for Christmas hampers for needy families.

ST JOSEPH'S TOILETS FUNDRAISING £536 was raised in October. A further **£542** has been raised, Total **£1,078**. Thank you **FUNDRAISER for Pancreatic Cancer** A total of **£2,700** was raised by Michael O'Brien's 46 mile walk during November. Thank you to all who sponsored him

BUSINESS CENTRE CAR PARK FINES all **Parking fines** have been cancelled. **Free parking** Sun from 8am till 11.59pm.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY second collection raised **£102**. Thank you for all your generous giving each week.

SUNDAY SMILE: *Each passing year is like a golf ball... you have no idea where it went!*