



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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St Edward the Confessor

Avenue Victoria, YO11 2QS

7 DECEMBER 2025: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE: Week 2

DECEMBER 1965 – DECEMBER 2025: THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL AND US

'In another world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.' Saint John Henry Newman wrote this in his Essay on the **Development of Christian Doctrine** which was published in 1845, the year he was received into the Catholic Church. Many of his ideas were to influence the 20th century theologians who, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, were paving the way for Second Vatican Council. In fact, Newman is sometimes called the Father of the Council. His ideas on the importance of the laity (that's us) and the development (not change!) of doctrine are reflected in many of the Council's final documents.

'Vatican 2' was an ecumenical council of the Church which meant that nearly **2,500 bishops and theologians from all around the Catholic world participated, the largest such gathering in history**. It was very specifically a pastoral council which means that it focused on inspiring and guiding the faith of Christians rather than defining doctrine and condemning heresies (previous Councils had tended to present their teaching in 'anathemas', in effect cursing those who didn't believe the doctrines that were promoted. In the whole of this Council's teaching there is only one anathema, against 'vast and indiscriminate destruction' through the deployment of 'scientific' weapons in war).



The Council was called and opened by **Pope Saint John XXIII in October 1962** and it was closed by **Pope Saint Paul VI on 8 December 1965** (*the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.*) So, this weekend is almost exactly the **60th anniversary**. In his opening address, **Pope John made clear the aims of the Council as he envisaged it: that the central truths of the faith be guarded and taught more effectively; for Christians to address their energy to actively seeking the Reign of God; and to articulate the doctrine of the Church for our age: 'it is the presentation of the Faith with which we are concerned here and our approach to this will be a thoroughly pastoral one'**. Above all he established a change of tone towards the world and its errors: *'today we prefer to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity ... by demonstrating the validity of our teachings rather than by condemning others'*.

The famous story of Pope John showing his Cardinals why he had called the Council, by flinging open a window in the Vatican, can be interpreted in different ways! Did he mean that the Church needs to let in some fresh air, blow away the cobwebs to reveal its true lineaments, or that the Church needs to release her greatest treasure into the world, the truth of Jesus Christ? Perhaps it is both: the ultimate purpose of the Council was to evangelise the whole world (this is where we come in), but it would do so by re-presenting her central doctrines and re-engaging the People of God with them. A few days after announcing his resignation in 2013, **Pope Benedict XVI** gave an address with some reflections on the Council. He said that the reform agenda set by his predecessor was a **'revolutionary pastoral act'**: no longer would the Church simply contrast its teachings to the errors of the modern world, but she would show how what was of value in cultures could be elevated by the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith.

The Council began its work focussing on the priority of worship in **Sacrosanctum Concilium, (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)** encouraging the sacramental participation of the laity: *'the Church earnestly desires that Christ's faithful, when present at this mystery, should not be there as strangers or silent spectators'* (this is perhaps where Catholics of a certain age notice the greatest changes in the Mass). *'The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided at the table of God's word.'* This was followed by a re-definition of the Church herself in **Lumen Gentium (The Light of the peoples)** in which we are no longer simply the laity, passive in the pews, but the People of God: **'the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood are ... ordered to one another; each in its own proper way shares in the one priesthood of Christ'**. **Dei Verbum** explored the treasures of Scripture as the revelation of Word of God: *'After God had spoken many times and in various ways through the prophets ... he sent his Son, the eternal Word who enlightens all people, to dwell among human kind and to tell them about the inner life of God.'*

Perhaps the most ambitious and inspiring document is **Gaudium et Spes, (Joy and Hope)** on the Church in the modern world. It explores the human condition; humankind's forlorn efforts to make sense of itself without God; the true foundations of justice (social, economic, political) and of peace. From this **'pastoral constitution'** have come the declarations of successive popes on our duties towards our fellow human beings and creation itself, not least in Pope Francis' remarkable letters to the world, **Laudato Si (Praise be to you my Lord)** and **Fratelli Tutti, (All Brothers and Sisters)** what we are increasingly coming to know as Catholic Social Teaching (once called *'the best kept secret of the Catholic Church'*!) We have work to do, to bring Christ's resurrected life to the world, 'on earth as it is in heaven'

Image: Pope John XXIII leads the opening session of the Second Vatican Council in St Peter's Basilica 11 Oct 1962
Taken from the Bishop's Conference of England & Wales website

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 7 DECEMBER 2025: YEAR A SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Saturday	6	5.30pm	St Edward's Vigil	People of the Parish
Sunday	7	9am	St Mark's (St Joseph's temporary relocation)	Pam Grundy (3rd anniv)
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	Private intention
		11.30am	St Peter's	Maria Rogers special b'day congrats
Monday	8	10am	St Joseph's	Jutta Marshall (b'day anniv)
Tuesday	9	5.30pm	St Edward's	Geraldine Wilkinson (anniv)
Wednesday	10	10am	St Peter's	Aileen Wilson (anniv)
Thursday	11	10am	St Joseph's (not a Mass)	Service of Word & Holy Communion
Friday	12	10am	St Peter's	George Wilson (b'day anniv)
Saturday	13	10am	St Peter's	In thanksgiving

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

LATELY DEAD: Susan Hoggarth; **ANNIV'S:** Pam Grundy, Anne McGovern, John McGlinchey, Chris Stanley, Aileen Wilson, Cynthia Overend, Geraldine Wilkinson, Declan Carney-Anderson, Brian Watson, Dorothy Stankaitis; **MASSSES ATTENDANCE:** Saturday Vigil St Edward's **84**; Sunday: St Joseph's **104**; St Peter's **204**; Polish **50** (est); **Total 442**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose plate: **£681**; Gift Aid Envelopes: **£434**; Av. Standing Orders: **£740** (av.); Contactless **£102**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,987**; **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.84**; **£10 No.151** *Congratulations!* **£1** for 2 numbers to join.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS NOTICES

PARISH RETREAT DAY at St Hildas Priory, Whitby **Thurs 18 Dec** Names to list. **Cost £10**. Bring a packed Lunch
ADVENT SPIRITUAL READING *Praying with the Psalms* or *Walk with Me* available at all churches. Give a small donation.
CHRISTMAS CARDS Advent Calendars and Crib Scenes at St Peter's and St Joseph's Holy Shop.
ST AUGUSTINE'S CONFESSIONS for Advent/Christmas **1.30pm Wednesday 10 December** in the school.
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**)
ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2pm Mon 15 December. All parishioners welcome.
CAROL CONCERT LED BY ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL in St Joseph's Church **7pm Wed 17 December**
UCM CHRISTMAS DINNER 12.30pm Wednesday 17 Dec at North Cliff Golf Club (for those who have booked)
SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNERS at **3 locations** for those who are alone, needy or vulnerable: St Mary's Parish House, Castle Road and The Lounge, St Cecelia's, Eastfield – 11am for 12 noon on Christmas Day (Phone 07575 833408 to book); Also, Gallows Close Centre, End cliff Crescent YO12 6HZ – 11am for 12 noon on Christmas Day (phone 01723 378102 to book or pop in to see them). See posters on noticeboards for more info
CHRISTMAS MASS & CONFESSION TIMES LEAFLET will be available soon

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 those in non-Catholic schools, **possibly Wednesday evenings**; Wednesday afternoons for those in St Peter's School (school will be in touch with parents). First Holy Communion dates (tbc) **Sat 6 & Sat 13 June 2026**

ST JOSEPH'S SUNDAY MASS is held in **ST MARK'S CHURCH** (opposite St Joseph's Green Lane) at **9am** (not 9.30am). We will be hiring commercial heaters for the Christmas/New Year period. **MASS WILL BE HELD AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH** from **Sunday 21 December** at **9.30am** until New Year's Day.

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

CHILDRENS LITURGY LEADERS MEETING 2pm Saturday 13 December in St Peter's Parish Centre.

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025 will conclude **6 January 2026**. It began Christmas Eve 2024 with the late Pope Francis opening the Holy Door in St Peters Basilica. The theme is **PILGRIMS OF HOPE**. See Logo at top of newsletter.

2026 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY now available – priced at £3 but donations accepted. A good source of info for our diocese.

ST PETER'S & ST JOSEPH'S READERS Take a copy of the notes from porch on the best hints on proclaiming the Word at Mass.

ST JOSEPH'S 2026 READERS ROTA is available to collect from St Joseph's or St Mark's (ask if you can't find it).

CHRISTMAS DINNERS for the needy at **Rainbow Centre**. See our **Facebook page**. Donations & helpers needed.

RAINBOW CENTRE CHRISTMAS APPEAL to raise **£10,000** to support families & individuals struggling over Christmas. Donate at: <https://justgiving.com/campaign/rainbowxmas> Also **new toys** can be given to the Rainbow Centre direct.

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

SUNDAY SMILE: *Q. What did one hen say to the other? A. Sorry for being in such a fowl mood!*