

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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25 JANUARY 2026 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Divine Office: Week 3

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is the *Sunday of the Word of God* - a day in the Catholic Church established by Pope Francis on the Feast of St Jerome in 2019. St Jerome is best known for his translation of the Bible into Latin and his commentaries on the whole Bible. This special day is dedicated to celebrating, studying, and spreading awareness of Sacred Scripture. It focuses on the profound, life-giving relationship between the risen Lord, the community of believers, and the Bible. It encourages a deeper appreciation for the Bible, reminding Christians that God continues to speak to his people today through Sacred Scripture. It highlights the "unbreakable bond" between the Word of God and the Eucharist. We are encouraged to mark this day with solemnity, such as enthroning the Bible and promoting Bible study.

"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." **Pope Francis, *Aperuit illis***

A REFLECTION

On the road to Emmaus, two disillusioned disciples are joined by the Resurrected Jesus whom they fail to recognise. In art they are usually depicted as two men. We know the name of one of them: he is Cleopas (Lk 24:18). One of the women who stayed near the Cross is identified as 'Mary, the wife of Clopas' (John 19:25). The names are close; perhaps these disciples were that married couple, returning home after the apparent failure of all their hopes. Depressed though they are, the stranger's presence is a welcome opportunity to talk again through recent events and to listen to some hefty scriptural exegesis! 'Starting from Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them the passages about himself throughout the scriptures' (Lk 24: 27). Their spirits begin to revive and when they reach their village, they press him to 'Stay with us' and join them for a meal. When he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and handed it to them 'their eyes were opened and they recognised him, but he had vanished from their sight' (Lk 24: 31). Left alone, in the presence of the consecrated bread, they look back and realise that the revelation had been prepared for them as they journeyed, listening to Scripture: 'Were not our hearts burning within us as he talked to us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' (Lk 24: 32) Even though it's now late, they set out at once for Jerusalem with the good news!

When Pope Francis established the annual Sunday of the Word of God in 2019, he released a theological reflection with the title *Aperuit Illis*. These are the first words in Latin of the verse towards the end of St Luke's Gospel, 'He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures' (Lk 24.45). Breaking open the story of the road to Emmaus, the Pope says that 'this scene clearly demonstrates the unbreakable bond between sacred Scripture and the Eucharist.' And he goes on to quote from *Dei Verbum*, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation of the Second Vatican Council: 'the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord's body, in that she never ceases, above all in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the word of God and the body of Christ.' Sacred Scripture and the sacraments are inseparable; and as St Jerome wrote in his translation of the Bible, from Hebrew and Greek into Latin, 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.'

According to *Aperuit Illis*, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is 'to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God' (though 'a day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event!'), the sacred text should be 'enthroned' during Mass and the parish's lectors should be re-commissioned in order to bring out the importance of the proclamation of God's word in the liturgy. Two years ago, I was lucky enough to be in Rome at the beautiful basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere for Mass on the Sunday of the Word of God and witnessed the priest solemnly handing a Bible to, and blessing, each of the lay ministers in that parish, including lectors (I later learnt that the Bibles were their own copies, but the symbolism was moving!). Pope Francis also encourages the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*, praying with sacred Scripture, which by the way has become a regular part of Catholic life for students at our secondary school, St Augustine's.

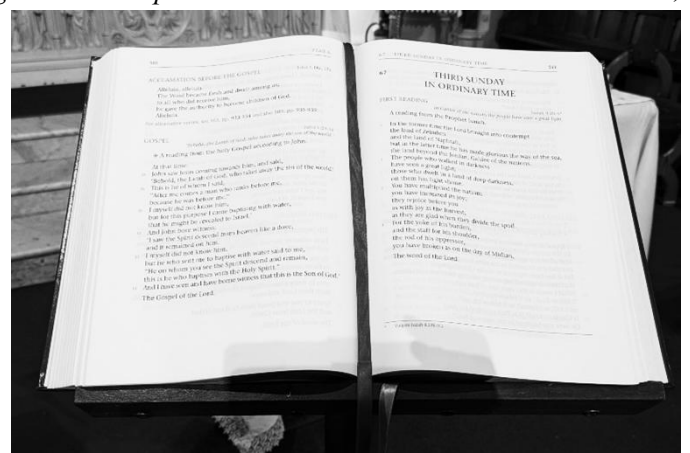
Pope Leo, a son of the other, more famous St Augustine, in his first prayer intention of the year, invites us to rediscover the transforming power of God's Word, a prayer it is good to reflect on slowly:


Lord Jesus, living Word of the father, in you we find the light that guides our steps. We know that the human heart is restless, hungry for meaning, and only your Gospel can give it peace and fullness. Teach us to listen to you each day in the Scriptures, to let ourselves be challenged by your voice, and to discern our decisions from a closeness to your heart.

May your Word be nourishment in weariness, hope in darkness and strength in our communities. Lord, may your Word never be absent from our lips or from our hearts – the Word that makes us sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, disciples and missionaries of your Kingdom.

Make us a Church that prays with the Word, that is built upon it and shares it with joy, so that in every person, the hope of a new world may be born again. May our faith grow in the encounter with you through your Word, moving us from the heart to reach out to others, to serve the most vulnerable, to forgive, build bridges and proclaim life. Amen

Reflection by Andrew Carter



MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 25 JANUARY 2026 – YEAR A 3RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME				
Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough				
Saturday	24	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Sunday	25	9am	St Mark's (not St Josephs)	SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	26	10am	St Joseph's	Ss Timothy & Titus
Tuesday	27	5.30pm	St Edward's	St Angela Merici
Wednesday	28	10am	St Peter's	St Thomas Aquinas
Thursday	29	10am	St Peter's	
Friday	30	10am	St Peter's	
Saturday	31	10am	St Peter's	St John Bosco
MASS IN THE SYRO-MALABAR RITE celebrated monthly 9.30am on 4th Sunday of month at St Edward's Church.				
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				
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 JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION: that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church. DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Fridays				
LATELY DEAD: June Milburn, Sheila Swales, Kathleen Anderson; ANNIV'S: Sheila Coupland, Kath Critchley, Doreen Southorn, George Tymon, Kathleen Emmerson, Brenda Stephenson (b'day), Tony Birdsall, TJ George, Joe Ledden; ATTENDANCE: Saturday Vigil St Edward's 67 (est); Sunday: St Joseph's 95 (est); St Peter's 186; Polish 50 (est); Total 398; OFFERINGS: Loose Plate: £598; Gift Aid Envelopes: £365; Av. Standing Orders: £740 (av.); Contactless £31; Polish: £30; Total £1,764; Thank you. ONLINE GIVING You can use the QR code (right) or you can donate online at donate.myдона.com/scarborough-parishes , or direct from your account: Parish bank account details: Barclays Bank Account No: 50003417, Sort Code: 20-56-90, Account name: <i>Diocese of Middlesbrough</i> . Include a reference - your name. If you wish to Gift Aid your offerings, please sign a Gift Aid Form if you haven't already done so). 300 CLUB WINNERS: £25 No. 116; £10 No.128. £1 for 2 numbers to join 				

ST JOSEPH'S SUNDAY MASS is held each Sunday in St Marks church at 9am (not 9.30am) until further notice.

REQUIEM MASS of June Milburn: 10am on Thursday 29 January at St Joseph's Church.

REQUIEM MASS of Sheila Swales: 11.30 on Friday 30 Jan at St George's. Body to be received into church 6pm Thur 29 Jan.

REQUIEM MASS of Kathleen Anderson: 11.30am on Friday 6 February at St Edward's Church.

1ST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2026 begins Wed 28 January: children in St Peter's School: 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the school; children in non-Catholic schools: 6pm to 7pm in St Peter's Parish Centre.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD is this Sunday 24-25 January. The late Pope Francis established this special Catholic observance through his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis* on 30 September 2019, on the Feast of St Jerome. The day is dedicated to celebrating, studying, and spreading Sacred Scripture, and encourages Christians to deepen their appreciation for the Bible, and recognise it as the voice of the Risen Lord and a vital part of daily faith. **MINISTERS OF THE WORD** will renew their commitment at these weekend Masses. Handouts at back on how to proclaim the Word of God.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL (SPUC) second collection will be taken at all Masses this weekend 24/25 January. The White Flower Appeal is dedicated to protecting unborn children and promoting the right to life in society from conception to natural death. Donations allow SPUC to continue their tireless work to build a culture of life. They work to educate youth, lobby politicians, mobilise pro-life activities in the community, provide support to students facing crisis pregnancies and much more. The White Flower Appeal is inspired by the courage of the White Rose Movement during World War II, which opposed the tyranny of the Nazi regime when so many lives were lost. Today, we need similar courage to stand for the vulnerable among us who are also losing their lives. In the space of one week in June 2025, MPs voted to allow women to abort their baby up to birth for any reason, and to legalise assisted suicide. **Life is under attack at every stage.** The fight is not over on either bill but whatever happens we must rise up and fight back. **Will you join the fight?** This is a worthy cause. Do donate if you can.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ends this Sunday 25 January with the annual united service, held this year at St Mary's Church, Castle Road at 6.30pm on Sunday 25 January.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY is Tuesday 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is a time to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of others persecuted under the Nazi regime and in subsequent genocides.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY is next Sunday 1 February. Racial Justice Sunday is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: *Whoever loves God must also love his brother (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes*. Resources for prayer, contemplation and action can be found on at www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-Sunday. There will be a second collection to supports the Church's ongoing efforts to combat racism, promote equality, and build inclusive communities.

PRAYER CARD/bookmark for Bishop Marcus, our new Diocesan Apostolic Administrator/Bishop. Do take one and keep him in prayer.

ASSISTED SUICIDE The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has passed through the House of Commons and is now with the House of Lords. The House of Lords has a responsibility to scrutinise the Bill in depth and reject it if necessary. For this reason, take some time to consider writing to a Peer. Unlike MPs, Members of the House of Lords do not have constituents, meaning there is not a Peer whose job it is to represent you based on the area of the country in which you live. So, think about which Peer you will write to and why, such as whether you have a personal or professional connection with them, or you have professional expertise in medicine or healthcare. You are able to find guidance on how to how to write to and formally address Members of the House using the parliament website at <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Lords>.

SUNDAY SMILE Warning- to whoever keeps adding "og" to my door sign, if I catch you, you are dead! Signed Dr A Hedgeh