

# 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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15 FEBRUARY 2026 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Divine Office: Week 2

### LENT – A PENITENTIAL SEASON

*Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*

Lent is the **40-day season** prior to Easter. It is a penitential time of **prayer and fasting**. The season begins **Ash Wednesday** and concludes with the **Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil**. In the Roman Catholic Church, the **40 days** of this season **do not** include the **six Sundays of Lent**. Sundays throughout the year are considered **“mini-Easters”** – they always celebrate the joy of the Resurrection of Christ.

The word **Lent** itself comes from *lencten*, simply referring to the **Spring season – season of new life and growth**. However, since the Anglo-Saxon period (9th Century) it has been a popular term for this penitential season. The Latin name is, *quadragesima* means **forty days** or **fortieth day**.

**A Brief History of Lent:** In the **first three centuries** of Christianity, preparation for the Easter Feast usually covered a period of one or two days, perhaps a week at the most. Saint Irenaeus of Lyons (ca AD 140-202) even speaks of a forty-hour preparation for Easter. As of the 5th Century, some Church Fathers, such as St Leo, believed the 40-day fast to be an Apostolic tradition. However, according to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, most modern scholars reject this view. History shows a variety in both the duration and fasting guidelines in the first three centuries.

The first official reference to Lent as a period of forty days' preparation occurs in the teachings of the **First Council of Nicaea in AD 325**, which uses the term *tessarakoste*, meaning **fortieth** in Greek. By the end of the fourth century, a Lenten period of forty days was established and accepted.

**Lent and Baptism:** In its early development Lent quickly became associated with the sacrament of Baptism, since Easter was the great baptismal Feast. Those who were preparing to be baptised participated in the season of Lent in preparation for the reception of the sacrament of Baptism. Eventually, those who were already baptised considered it important to join these candidates preparing for baptism in their preparation for Easter.

### HISTORY OF ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY

You might be wondering why we get ashes on our foreheads for Ash Wednesday. Throughout history, **ashes have been a powerful outward symbol of interior repentance and spiritual awareness**. Here are some examples of ashes in the Bible:

- *"Therefore, I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes."* (Job 42:6)
- *"Daughter of my people, dress in sackcloth, roll in the ashes."* (Jeremiah 6:26)
- *"I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes."* (Daniel 9:3)
- *"When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: "By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands."* (Jonah 3: 6-8)

The Early Christians used ashes to show repentance as well, but not just on Ash Wednesday! After going to confession, it was common for the priest to give the person ashes on their forehead. Catholics have been receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday since the time of St. Gregory the Great. In 1091, Pope Urban II encouraged the entire Church to use ashes on Ash Wednesday. If you want to get blessed with ashes this Ash Wednesday, be sure to check the Mass times overleaf.

### A LENTEN PRAYER

*O Lord, I offer You this Lent*

*I offer to You with total abandonment and trust. I offer You my prayers, sacrifices and my very life. May this Lent be a time through which Your **mercy** is poured in abundance into **my soul**, and into the souls of all Your faithful. **Help me** to especially see my sin, this Lent.*

***Humble me** so that I may see clearly. **Give me courage and strength** to confess my sins, and to turn from them with all my heart.*

***Enlighten me** with Your Holy Word. **Help me** to come to know You and to deepen the gift of faith in my life. **Show me** the plan You have for me, and place my feet upon the path You have chosen. I thank You for the fullness of Your perfect Sacrifice. **Keep me faithful** to my*

*Lenten promises, and bring forth new life through these sacrifices of love. **Strengthen my prayer** and make me holy.*

*Do with me, Lord, as You will. **Help me** to turn to You, each day,*

**MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 15 FEBRUARY 2026 – YEAR A 6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough>

Saturday	14	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Sunday	15	9am	St Mark's (not St Josephs)	<i>Day of Special Prayer for the unemployed</i>
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	16	10am	St Joseph's	
Tuesday	17	1pm	St Peter's	<i>Seven Founders of Servite Order</i>
		5.30pm	St Edward's	
Wednesday	18	10am	St Joseph's	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
		12 noon	St Edward's	
		7pm	St Peter's	
Thursday	19	10am	St Joseph's	
Friday	20	10am	St Peter's	
Saturday	21	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Peter Damien</i>

**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 FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION:** *that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.* **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** Fridays before Mass

**LATELY DEAD:** Elizabeth Trower, Vicky Vassby, Dean Walker, Eric Hayes, Daniel Roberts; **ANNIV'S:** Bob Stankiste, Patrick Wilkins, John Pennock; **ATTENDANCE:** **Saturday Vigil** St Edward's **77**; **Sunday:** St Joseph's **112**; St Peter's **194**; Polish **50** (est); **Total 433**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose Plate: **£624**; Gift Aid Envelopes: **£231**; Av. Standing Orders: **£740** (av.); Contactless **£74**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,699**; **Thank you.** **ONLINE GIVING** You can use the QR code (right) or you can donate online at [donate.myдона.com/scarborough-parishes](https://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: **Diocese of Middlesbrough**. 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.40; £10 No.77**



**FUNERAL SERVICE (not Mass)** of Eric Hayes of Seamer: **11am on Thurs 19 February** at St Peter's Church. Burial in Filey.  
**REQUIEM MASS** of Elizabeth Trower née Kelly (aged 104): **1pm on Tues 17 Feb** at St Peter's Church. Elizabeth is known for her role of Nellie Ellis on the BBC soap, East Enders, & starred in other TV soaps and series, including Home & Away Emmerdale.  
**ST JOSEPH'S SUNDAY MASS** is held each Sunday in **St Mark's** church at **9am** (not 9.30am) until further notice.  
**MARRIAGE WEEK 7-14 February.** Married couples are invited to stand for a **renewal of vows** at Masses this weekend.  
**UCM NEXT MEETING 1pm on Tuesday 17 February (Pancake Day)** in St Joseph's Sister Rita Room (note change of venue due to funeral at St Peter's Church). Meeting followed by pancakes

**LENT 2026: ASH WEDNESDAY** is this **Wednesday 18 February** – it is **not a Holy Day of Obligation**, but is a day of **fasting and abstinence**. There will be **3 Masses on this day** (see Mass times above) when parishioners receive ashes in the sign of a cross, which is an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** devotions will take place after every weekday Mass during Lent in the different churches.**LENT COURSE** Tuesdays from **24 Feb at 2 pm** in Saint Edward's Hall for **6 weeks**, on the theme of **Exploring Faith**. All welcome  
**CAFOD SOUP LUNCH Friday 27 Feb (Family Fast Day)** in St Peter's Parish Centre.**CAFOD BIG LENT WALK** Are you ready for a challenge this Lent? Walk anytime, anywhere for **40 days**, and raise funds for CAFOD for life-saving water. For more info or to sign up, go to <https://walk.cafod.org.uk>**LENTEN PRAYER BOOKLETS** *Praying With The Psalms* and *Walk With Me* devotion booklets for Lent are now available – devote a short time each day this Lent in reflections and prayer. Suggested donation 50p.**WHY DO ACTS OF PENANCE DURING LENT Prayer – Fasting – Almsgiving:** 1) to increase our hunger for and love of God; 2) to increase self-control - exercising self-mastery over our passions and desires. **FASTING** is an obligation on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for all aged **18 to the end of their 59th year**. **ABSTINANCE** is a requirement for all aged **14 and over** (no upper age limit) on all days of Lent (inc. Ash Wednesday & Good Friday) and all Fridays throughout the year. **Abstinence** means refraining from eating meat. It is distinct from **Fasting** (one meal + two smaller meals). Additionally, during Lent, we practice the penitential spiritual act of giving something up (renouncing a comfort, luxury or habit that we enjoy). This helps us to imitate Jesus's sacrifice in the desert, deepen their faith, and break bad habits. Some are exempt for health reasons**73RD MIDDLESBROUGH DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 24 to 30 May.** From **£925pp**. Return flights & transfers 6 nights full board, full religious programme. Go to: [joewalshstours.co.uk/tours/73rd-middlesbrough-diocesan-lourdes-pilgrimage](https://joewalshstours.co.uk/tours/73rd-middlesbrough-diocesan-lourdes-pilgrimage)**ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAY WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE** led by Bishop Marcus Stock (Apostolic Administrator): **Sat 26 Sept**. Coach pickups: Middlesbrough Cathedral **5am** & York Train Station **6am**. Cost **£40pp**. Further info email Bishop's Secretary at [bishopsecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:bishopsecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk). We would run a **Day bus** from Scarborough if there is sufficient interest. Leave 6am and back 10pm**ST JOSEPH'S NEW HEATING SYSTEM UPDATE** We agreed at Thursday's meeting to install **8 Chandelier Infra-Red Heaters with LED lighting from the ceiling**. These would replace some of the present chandelier lights. The cost **£41,000** inc. VAT.**MARY'S MEALS Old & foreign coin collection:** Place in sealed bag & hand in at weekend Masses – last opportunity **Sun 22nd SUNDAY SMILE:** *I'm having a garage sale tomorrow! Please don't come if I've ever borrowed something from you.*