

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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Avenue Victoria, YO11 2QS

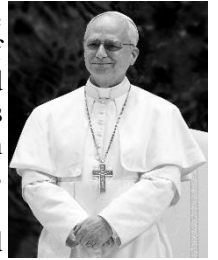
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17 MAY 2026: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK 3

SUMMARY OF POPE LEO XIV MESSAGE FOR THE 60TH WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

THEME: PRESERVING HUMAN VOICES AND FACES Our faces and voices are unique, distinctive features of every person; they reveal a person's own unrepeatable identity and are the defining elements of every encounter with others. Ancient cultures recognised this significance: the Greek *prósōpon* ("face") conveyed presence and relationship, while the Latin *persona* (from *per-sonare*) evoked the unmistakable resonance of a person's voice. These features are considered **sacred**, bestowed by God who created humanity in his image and called each person into being through his Word. This divine Word, once spoken through the prophets, became flesh in Jesus Christ, whose **face and voice** reveal God's self-communication to humanity (cf. **1 Jn 1:1–3**).



According to **Saint Gregory of Nyssa**, God imprinted a reflection of divine love onto human faces so that men and women might live their humanity through love. To preserve human faces and voices is therefore to safeguard this divine imprint. Human beings cannot be reduced to biological formulas; each person possesses an irreplaceable vocation shaped by lived experience and relationship. The text warns that neglecting this uniqueness allows digital technologies—especially **artificial intelligence**—to erode fundamental pillars of human civilisation. By simulating human faces, voices, wisdom, empathy and friendship, AI systems intrude not only into information ecosystems but into the deepest levels of human communication and relationship. The challenge is thus **anthropological rather than technological**: safeguarding faces and voices means safeguarding humanity itself. Digital tools must be approached with courage and discernment, without ignoring their risks.

The erosion of critical thought: Algorithms designed to maximise engagement on social media reward quick emotional reactions and discourage slower, reflective thinking. By creating **echo chambers**, they weaken critical listening and intensify social polarisation. This is compounded by a naïve trust in AI as an all-knowing "friend" or "oracle," which can erode analytical and creative capacities and blur the distinction between **syntax and semantics**.

As AI increasingly produces texts, music and videos, the human creative industry risks being displaced by content labelled "Powered by AI." People may become passive consumers of "unthought thoughts," while masterpieces of human culture are reduced to training data. The deeper issue is not what machines can do, but what humans choose to do. Surrendering creativity to machines would mean **burying the talents** given for growth in relationship with God and others. It would mean **hiding our faces and silencing our voices**.

Simulated relationships and distorted reality: AI-driven chatbots and "virtual influencers" blur the line between human and machine interaction. Their adaptive, mimetic design can imitate feelings and simulate relationships, which is particularly deceptive for vulnerable individuals. Because such systems are always available and excessively "affectionate," they can shape emotional states and invade personal intimacy. Replacing real relationships with AI creates a "world of mirrors" reflecting only ourselves, depriving us of encounters with others who differ from us—encounters essential for friendship, growth and genuine communication.

AI systems also reproduce **biases** embedded in their training data, reinforcing stereotypes and social inequalities. Their power of simulation can fabricate parallel "realities," even using our own faces and voices. Since these systems present **statistical probability as knowledge**, inaccuracies and lack of source verification fuel disinformation, mistrust and confusion.

Concentration of power and the need for guidance: The text expresses concern about the concentration of technological power in a small number of companies whose founders have been celebrated as the creators of the "Person of the Year 2025." Their dominance raises fears of **oligopolistic control** (dominated by a small number of large firms that control the majority of the market share, limiting competition) over algorithmic systems capable of influencing behaviour, shaping public perception and even rewriting human history—including the history of the Church—often without public awareness. The goal is not to halt digital innovation but to **guide it wisely**, recognising its ambivalent nature. Each person is called to defend human dignity so that digital tools may become genuine allies. This alliance rests on three pillars: **responsibility, cooperation and education**.

Responsibility varies by role—honesty, transparency, courage, foresight, the duty to share knowledge or the right to be informed—but no one can evade responsibility for the future being shaped. Leaders of major platforms must ensure that business strategies are guided not only by profit but by the **common good**. Developers of AI systems are urged to practise transparency and social responsibility in design and moderation, enabling users to give **informed consent**. Legislators and regulators must safeguard **human dignity**, preventing emotional dependence on chatbots, limiting manipulative content and protecting the integrity of information. Media organisations must resist allowing engagement-driven algorithms to override truth-seeking values. Public trust depends on **accuracy and transparency**, and AI-generated content must be clearly labelled. Information is a **public good**, requiring transparency of sources and high professional standards.

Cooperation: No single sector can govern digital innovation alone. Broad collaboration is essential. Stakeholders—including the tech industry, legislators, creative sectors, academia, journalists, artists and educators—must work together to build **responsible digital citizenship**.

Education strengthens critical thinking, source evaluation and awareness of psychological mechanisms. There is an urgent need to integrate **media, information and AI literacy** into education systems at all levels. Catholics are encouraged to contribute so that young people may grow in freedom of spirit. Lifelong learning must also reach older adults and marginalised groups who feel excluded from rapid technological change. Such literacy helps individuals resist the **anthropomorphising** of AI, verify AI-generated information and protect privacy, data and personal images from misuse in fraud, cyberbullying or deepfakes. Just as the industrial revolution required basic literacy, the digital revolution requires **digital literacy**—alongside humanistic and cultural education—to understand how algorithms shape perception and how AI biases operate. Ultimately, society needs **faces and voices** to speak for people again. Communication is a gift rooted in the deepest truth of humanity, and technological innovation must be oriented toward this truth. The text concludes with gratitude and a blessing for all who work for the common good through the media.

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

Saturday	16	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Sunday	17	9.30am	St Joseph's	<i>WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY</i>
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	18	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St John I</i>
Tuesday	19	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>St Dunstan</i>
Wednesday	20	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Bernadine of Siena</i>
Thursday	21	10am	St Joseph's	<i>Ss Christopher Magallanes & comp.</i>
Friday	22	9.45am	St Peter's <i>*note time</i>	<i>St Rita of Casia</i>
		11am	St Joseph's (School Leavers Mass)	
Saturday	23	10am	St Peter's	

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 & St Joseph's Sundays weekly; **PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER: MAY** *that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.* **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** Fridays before Mass. **LEGION OF MARY** Saturdays 11am; **STATIONS / SACRED HEART DEVOTION** Fridays after Mass, alternating weekly.

LATELY DEAD: Baby Zachary David Taylor, Eileen Stephenson; **ANNIV'S:** Don Wells, Remegio Soriano, Peter Derry; **ATTENDANCE: Vigil:** St Edward's **81**; **Sunday:** St Joseph's **153**; St Peter's **227**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose Plate: **£686**; Gift Aid Envelopes: **£223**; Av. Standing Orders: **£740** (av.); Contactless **£106**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,785. 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: *Diocese of Middlesbrough*. Include a **reference** - your name. If you wish to **Gift Aid** your offerings, please sign a **Gift Aid Form**). **300 CLUB WINNERS: £25 No.78; £10 No.14.**



60TH WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY is this **Sunday 17 May**. *Theme* for this chosen by Pope Leo XIV, is '**Preserving Human Voices and Faces**' in which he highlights the importance of ensuring that technological innovation, particularly artificial intelligence, serves the human person rather than replacing or diminishing human dignity. www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-leos-message-for-world-communications-day-2026 **RETIRING COLLECTION** at all Masses this weekend **16th/17 May**.

UCM MEETING 1pm Tue 19 May at the **home of a parishioner** weather permitting. **Rosary** followed by a short meeting. **Cream & jam scones and tea to follow: £3.** If wet we will be in the Sister Rita Room. All welcome.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL LEAVERS MASS 11am on Fri 22 May. We offer our prayers for all those sitting exams.

RAINBOW CENTRE CHARITY BALL Saturday 6 June at the Ocean Spa Room. 3 Course Meal, Charity Auction, live Band and dancing. Go to therainbowcentre.org/news/rainbow-charity-ball-2026 for tickets or see our Facebook page.

CORPUS CHRIST PROCESSION 11am Sunday 7 June to start up past St Mary's Church processing to St Peter's Church.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH FUNDRAISER 7pm Thursday 9 July (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE) for the new heating system. Fashion show and sale to be held at St Peter's School. More details to follow.

FAMILY RETREAT 12 noon to 3.30pm on Saturday 27 June at **St George's Church, Eastfield**. An opportunity for families from across the diocese to meet, learn and pray and enjoy the Yorkshire Coast. **Bring packed lunch.** List to sign

ICON WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS No experience needed. **3 days of creative retreat** by Canon Ian Holdsworth **9.30am to 5pm on 30 Jun, 1 & 3 July** at Emmanuel Church, Cardigan Road, Bridlington. Cost **£125**. Email canonianh@gamail.com

PETITIONS FOR LOURDES Write & place in a **sealed envelope** (no money). Given to Juliet at St Augustine's to take to grotto
ROSARY FOR LIFE Archbishop **John Wilson of Southwark** calls on us to join him this May (Month of Mary) in praying for an end to abortion, for peace, for people with disabilities, the elderly and the vulnerable. Go to www.cbcew.org.uk/rosary-for-life-with-archbishop-john-wilson for the full Rosary with accompanying videos for each Mystery. Printable downloads are also available.

PENTECOST NOVENA Parishioners are invited to take part in a Novena which began on **Thu 14 May** (not too late to participate). Each day a video will be posted at www.facebook.com/Middlesbroughfaithformation and [@rcdmiddfaithformation](https://www.instagram.com/rcdmiddfaithformation) on Instagram.

FR EMMANUEL has been appointed assistant priest at St Thomas More & St Joseph Parishes, Middlesbrough from early June.

NO MOW MAY You are strongly encouraged **not to cut** lawns, or at least cut less frequently or with a higher setting, to give lawn flowers a chance, and help support pollinating insects. Lawn flowers typically grow between **May & September**, with peak flowering occurring in **June & July**. **GARDEN HEDGES** While not strictly illegal, it is strongly advised to avoid trimming from **March to August** to protect wildlife, especially nesting birds. It is a legal offense to damage or destroy an active bird's nest.

KERALA COMMUNITY ST PATRICK'S FUNDRAISER was an evening of fun and fellowship & Quiz. 76 attended and succeeded in raising around £1,000 towards St Joseph's new heating system. We salute and thank all who made it possible.

GIFT AID Consider Gift Aid your church collection if you pay tax. We can claim an **extra 25p** for each **£1**. All confidential

SUNDAY SMILE: Q. What do you call a rabbit that has fleas? A. Bugs Bunny 🐰