



THE ANGELUS – OIL PAINTING BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS MILLET (1857)

The Angelus (French: L'Angélus) is an oil painting by French painter Jean-François Millet (1814–1875), commissioned by the American art collector Thomas Gold Appleton, and was completed during the summer of 1857. It is one of his most iconic works and currently hangs in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. As a young adult, Millet trained as an artist in Cherbourg at the École des Beaux-Arts. After having been accepted to exhibit in the Paris Salon, he firstly became a portrait painter, and later became associated with the Barbizon school, a pivotal French art movement which revolutionised art by pioneering *en plein air* (outdoors) observation, turning landscape painting into an independent Realist subject and paved the way for Impressionism. He is celebrated for his dignified, often sombre portrayals of peasant farmers & rural agricultural labour.

This painting depicts two French peasants pausing in a potato field at sunset to pray. Its original title was *Prayer for the Potato Crop*, but Millet modified the painting to include a church steeple in the background and changed the painting's name to *The Angelus*. This small visual addition instantly transformed a simple, regional scene of agricultural labour into a profound, universally understood expression of Catholic devotion. Millet himself was raised in a devout Roman Catholic farming family in Normandy, France. His childhood was profoundly shaped by scripture, a great-uncle who was a Catholic priest, and the daily rhythms of rural prayer, such as the Angelus. This traditional Catholic prayer would be recited at evening bell toll, and the addition of the church steeple allowed Millet to ground the painting in his own upbringing. Millet said, "The idea for *The Angelus* came to me because I remembered that my grandmother, hearing the church bell ringing while we were working in the fields, always made us stop work to say the Angelus prayer for the poor departed. The Angelus is a traditional Catholic devotion commemorating the Incarnation and honouring Mary. By laying down their tools, they sanctify the hard labour of the day by offering it to God.

The Annunciation and the Incarnation: The Angelus prayer (originating from the Latin word for "Angel") marks the moment the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive of the Holy Spirit, and Mary's Fiat (acceptance), see Luke 1:28–35. By praying this, the peasants are cantering their daily lives on Christ.

Humility and the Common Good: The couple's bowed postures reflect Christian humility and spiritual poverty. Standing bare-headed and empty-handed, they stand before God with nothing but their faith. This posture mirrors Mary's own submission during the Annunciation, demonstrating total trust in Divine Providence to provide their daily bread.

Liturgical Rhythm of Life and Community: The painting illustrates how faith anchors the entire community. The distant church bell dictates the rhythm of the day, uniting the solitary peasants in the field with the rest of the parish. This collective pause reinforces the concept of the Mystical Body of Christ, where individual lives are bound together by a shared liturgical clock.

Sanctification of Time: In Catholic theology, time is not merely a sequence of passing minutes (what the Greeks called *chronos*), but a 'canvas' for God's grace where every moment holds eternal value. Traditionally the Angelus bell was rung three times a day; dawn, noon, and dusk, introducing a liturgical rhythm that disrupts the relentless demands of work and survival. The painting captures the toll for sunset—the transition from physical labour to rest. In that moment, the peasant's time no longer belongs to the landlord or harvest; it is reclaimed for God, serving as a reminder that humanity was made for eternity, not just production.

Prayer for Souls in Purgatory: The evening bell historically doubled as the "Passing Bell," a reminder to pray for the souls in Purgatory. The canvas of the painting actually hides a geometric shape beneath the basket of potatoes. Some, including Salvador Dalí, believed it to be a sketch of a child's coffin, meaning the scene could have carried a profound sense of mourning. Scans have discovered a geometric box-like shape, but experts are divided as to what it represents. Nevertheless, the prayer of the couple for the deceased acts as a spiritual bridge to aid souls of departed loved ones on their journey to heaven.

Eucharistic Undertones: The basket of potatoes at their feet and the distant church steeple represent the spiritual element of the harvest. In the Eucharist, God takes the "fruit of the earth and work of human hands" and transforms it into spiritual sustenance. By bowing over the literal fruit of their hard labour, the peasants treat this humble crop not just as commodity, but as a providential gift from the Creator, mirroring the offertory of the Mass. The upright pitchfork subtly evokes the instrument of crucifixion; the wheelbarrow and sacks represent the heavy burdens of the world. The peasants poured out their own sweat into the soil to produce food for others in a physical sacrifice that mirrors Christ's self-giving sacrifice, transforming their gruelling workday into a personal, living liturgy. Jean-François Millet was not a strictly practicing Catholic, but his nostalgic affection for his peasant roots resulted in a masterpiece resonant with Catholic symbolism. The painting was widely reproduced and became a staple in many traditional Catholic households.

Image: Jean-François Millet, *The Angelus* (1857). This work is in the Public Domain.

THE ANGELUS PRAYER

V. The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women and blessed
is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary,
Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and
at the hour of our death. Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

R. Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh:

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may
be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace
into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation
of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the
message of an angel, may by His Passion and
Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection,
through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

MASS TIMES - WEEK COMMENCING 19 JULY 2026 – YEAR A				ORDINARY TIME 16TH SUNDAY	
Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough					
Saturday	18	5.30pm	St Edward's		
Sunday	19	9.30am	St Joseph's		
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)		
		11.30am	St Peter's		
Monday	20	10am	St Joseph's	St Apollinaris	
Tuesday	21	5.30pm	St Edward's	St Lawrence of Brindisi	
Wednesday	22	10am	St Peter's	ST MARY MAGDALENE	
Thursday	23	10am	St Joseph's	ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN (DSP for Europe)	
Friday	24	11.30am	St Josephs	St Sharbel Makhlef	Requiem Mass
Saturday	25	10am	St Peter's	ST JAMES, APOSTLE	
MASS IN THE SYRO-MALABAR RITE celebrated monthly 9.30am on 4th Sunday of month at St Edward's Church.					
CONFESSION TIMES Sat: 10.30am-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; JULY PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God. DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Fridays before Mass. LEGION OF MARY Saturdays 11am in St Peter's Parish Centre; STATIONS / SACRED HEART DEVOTION Fridays after Mass, alternating weekly					
LATELY DEAD: Angela Maslin (99yrs); ANNIV'S: Fr Joseph O'Mahony, Canon Patrick Hartnett; MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: Vincent, Raju; MASS ATTENDANCE: Vigil: St Edward's 81; Sunday: St Joseph's 160 (est); St Peter's 183, Polish 55 (est); Total 479; OFFERINGS: Loose Plate: £650; Gift Aid Envelopes: £202; Av. Standing Orders: £1,030 (av.); Contactless £67; Polish: £30; Total £1,979. Thank you. 300 CLUB WINNERS: £25 No.187; £10 No.67.					
ONLINE GIVING You can donate online at https://donate.mydona.com/scarborough-parishes or use the QR code (right) or by making a direct payment from your account: Parish bank account details: Barclays Bank Account No: 50003417, Sort Code: 20-56-90, Account name: <i>Diocese of Middlesbrough</i> . If you wish to Gift Aid your offerings, please sign a Gift Aid Form). Also, a CONTACTLESS MACHINE is in place in all our 3 churches near the entrance. Choose headings carefully when using					



INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONVERTS (RCIA) concludes for the summer months and resumes in the autumn time.

UCM MEETING at 1pm on Tues 21 July at Sister Rita Room, Pie and Pea lunch. Let Anne know if you will be at the meeting.

SUMMER FAYRE & GRAND RAFFLE with and Indian food prepared by a professional chef: Sunday 2 August after 11.30am Mass in St Peters Church car park. Cooking by the Indian Kerala community. Contribution for food on the day £10 pp. Tombola, cake stall, face painting, toy stall, ice cream etc. Raffle prizes 1st = £100, 2nd = £50, 3rd = 25. Tickets available from back of church. Book £5, single ticket £1. Take some to sell. Proceeds towards St Joseph's heating and St Peter's Restoration.

PRIZES needed for Summer Fayre raffle and tombola (good quality only please). Also Bottle stall. Leave in sacristy at any of our 3 churches. Also cakes for cake stall, plants for a plant stall, CDs and DVDs, & good quality items for white elephant stall.

FR ALBERT 25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD Mass of Thanksgiving Tues 18 August 6pm at Bridlington. All welcome

INSPIRATION DAY for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Ministers of the Word: Saturday 19 September at The Spa Centre, Scarborough. Registration 9.20am; ends 3pm approx after Mass. New Ministers of both ministries will be commissioned at this event. All Ministers do their best to attend, especially new Ministers. The cost of £40 pp. will be covered by the parish, and includes refreshments and lunch. Add your name to list at back of church. Deadline for names Sunday 23 August.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Saturday 26 Sept (not overnight) Cost £40. Led by Bishop Marcus and joining with the Leeds Diocese. Depart by bus from York Railway Station 6am. Arrive for 12 noon Mass. Depart Walsingham 5pm.

LITTLE HEARTS BIG FAITH Children's Liturgy inspiration & formation afternoon: 1pm to 4.30pm Sat 10 October at English Martyrs, Dalton Terrace, York. For Children's Liturgy Leaders & Catechists. Exploring the purpose of Children's Liturgy.

OUR LADY OF DONCASTER Saturday 24 October with singer DANA as guest speaker more details to follow.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE The school will start collecting items for this in September. If you are looking for a summer project, craft items that the children could buy as Christmas gifts would be much appreciated eg knitted toys, tree decorations, small hand-crafted gifts. We will also have a teddy tombola. If you are having a summer sort out, please pass on any teddies or toys for the tombola. Many thanks.

CAFOD-DEC* VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL Please donate by visiting: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or call 0300 9990030 or scan the QR code (see right). *DEC = Disasters Emergency Committee



SEA SUNDAY COLLECTION last Sunday raised £498 for Stella Maris, to support seafarers around the world. Thank you.

FASHION SHOW raised £800 towards the new heating at St Joseph's Church.

FREE CAR PARKING in the Business Centre car park (Yorkshire in Business) on Aurborough Street on Sundays only.

SUNDAY SMILE Q. What do you call a camel with no hump? A. Humpfree! ☺