

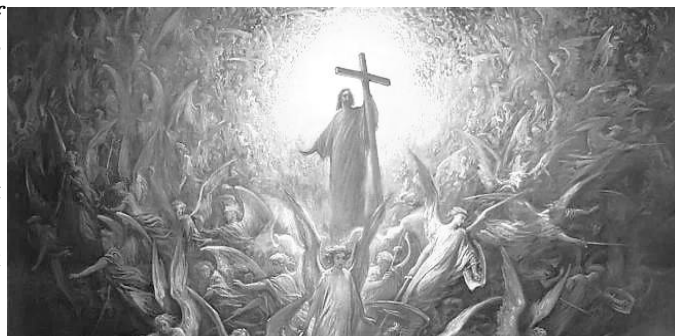
FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

The Feast of the Triumph of the Cross is also known as *Exaltation of the Cross, Elevation of the Cross, Holy Cross Day, Cross Mass, Holy Rood Day, or Roodmas*. It commemorates the finding of the Holy Cross by St Helena, the dedication of churches built by Constantine, and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem.

Discovery of the Cross: Tradition holds that, in around AD326, St Helena, the Roman Emperor Constantine's mother and convert to Christianity, pilgrimaged to the Holy Land to locate where the important events in the life of Jesus occurred, and to preserve any remaining Christian relics, particularly the Cross on which Jesus was crucified.

Assisted by the Bishop of Caesarea, Eusebius (early church historian) and Bishop of Jerusalem, St Macarius, she discovered the spot and found the True Cross. Macarius initiated excavations to ascertain the location of Calvary and of the Holy Sepulchre. During the excavations, the wood of the Cross was found and Macarius determined it to be authentic. **The crosses of the Two Thieves were also recovered.** The **Emperor Constantine** built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre over the two holiest sites in the whole of Christianity - the Rock of Golgotha and the Tomb of Christ.



In the **7th century** the Cross had fallen into the hands of Chosroas, King of the Persians. The precious relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius in AD 629. The lessons from the Breviary tell us that Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross back to Jerusalem on his shoulders, clothed in rich garments with ornaments of precious stones. But at the entrance to Mt Calvary a strange incident occurred. Try as hard as he would, he could not go forward. Zacharias, the Bishop of Jerusalem, then said to the astonished monarch: "*Consider, O Emperor, that with these triumphal ornaments you are far from resembling Jesus carrying His Cross.*" The emperor then put on a penitential garb and continued the journey.

Feast Day and Veneration: The True Cross was a most valuable treasure of the Church and became highly-venerated in the Feast honouring the Elevation of the Holy Cross. It was celebrated on 3 May in the old Roman calendar (date of its discovery), and on 14 September in Jerusalem and on the new Roman calendar (the date the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated). The Second Council of Nicæa of AD787, drew the distinction between **veneration** of the cross and **worship** or *latría* - the latter of which, "*according to the teaching of the faith, belongs to the Divine nature alone.*" Therefore, when we venerate the cross, the honour paid to the object, relic or image passes to the prototype - the person whom it represents.

Meaning of the Triumph of the Cross: When Moses lifted up the bronze serpent over the people, it was a foreshadowing of the salvation through Jesus, when He was lifted up on the Cross. The celebration of this Feast Day is therefore a triumphant one. The cross of triumph is usually pictured as a globe with the cross on top, symbolic of the triumph of our Saviour over the sin of the world, and world conquest of His Gospel through the means of a grace (**cross and orb** - see right). Our Mother Church sings of the triumph of the Cross, the instrument of our redemption. To follow Christ, we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross. We identify with Christ on the Cross and become co-redeemers, sharing in His cross.



Sign of the Cross: At **Baptism**, we are sealed with the **Sign of the Cross**, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. We make the **Sign of the Cross** before and **after prayer**, on **entering the church** at the start of Mass, and many other times, in order to fix our minds and hearts to God and keep close to Him. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. Let us look to the cross frequently, and realise that when we make the Sign of the Cross, we give our entire self to God, mind, soul, heart, body, will.

Suggested Things to Do: Make sure that crucifixes are **displayed** prominently throughout your home. **Point out the crucifix** in every room even to the smallest ones, and explain its meaning. **Encourage your children** to make reparation for sin and teach them a short prayer such as "*Through the sign of the Cross deliver us from sin, O God!*". **Study different symbols and types of crosses**, history and/or significance (ideas here: www.planetgast.net/symbols/crosses/crosses.html). **Have an art project with your children**, creating crosses using different media, including paper, or **decorate some cakes with a cross**. **Pray the prayer to Christ Crucified or Stations of the Cross.** Tradition holds that sweet basil grew over the hill where St Helena found the Holy Cross, so in Greece the faithful are given sprigs of basil by the priest.

PRAYER O God, who willed that Your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known His mystery on earth, may merit the grace of His redemption in heaven. For You placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered through Christ. O cross, you are the glorious sign of victory. Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus. We adore you Christ and we praise you, for by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Amen

MASS TIMES - WEEK COMMENCING 13 SEPTEMBER 2026 – YEAR A 24TH SUNDAY: ORDINARY TIME

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

Saturday	12	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Sunday	13	9.30am	St Joseph's	<i>Education Sunday</i>
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	14	10am	St Joseph's	<i>EXHALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</i>
Tuesday	15	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>
Wednesday	16	8.30am	St Peter's (<i>note earlier time</i>)	<i>Ss Cornelius & Cyprian</i>
Thursday	17	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Robert Bellarmine / St Hildegard of Bingen</i>
Friday	18	10am	St Peter's **NOT A MASS	<i>Service of Word & Holy communion</i>
Saturday	19	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Janarius / St Theodore of Canterbury</i>

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; **SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO:** *for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.* **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

ANNIV'S: Vivienne Carr, Maureen Porter, Eileen Shakespeare, Sean McEvey, Ann Marie Carr, Angelo Schembri; **MASS ATTENDANCE:** Vigil: St Edward's **79**; Sunday: St Joseph's **126s**; St Peter's **198**, Polish **55** (est); **Total 458**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose Plate: **£570**; Gift Aid Envelopes: **£302**; Av. Standing Orders: **£1,030** (av.); Contactless **£51**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,938**. Thank you. **300 CLUB WINNERS: £100 No.207**. Congrats.

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: **Diocese of Middlesbrough**. 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.



EDUCATION SUNDAY today. As we begin a new school year, we have a speaker at each of our churches this weekend. There will be a **voluntary second collection** at all weekend Masses. Read Bishop Marcus message in the Sept. **Catholic Voice** **ST PETER'S BABY AND TODDLER GROUP** resumes **9am Monday 14 September** at St Peter's School.

EASTER CHOIR will get together to learn some sea shanties to perform at the Parish Concert. Rehearsals **7-8.30pm** at St Peter's Parish Centre on **14, 17, 21, 24 & 28 Sept and 12 & 15 Oct**. New members very welcome. No experience needed, just a love of singing.

UCM VISIT TO BRIDLINGTON for Mass and shared lunch with Father Albert: **Tuesday 15 September** - meet at the church at **11.45am** for Holy Mass at **12noon**. Shared lunch in church hall afterwards - please bring some food. Car share if possible.

INSTRUCTION FOR CONVERTS (RCIA) resumes **Sat 19 Sept - 11.30am** in parish office for those interested in becoming Catholic.

INSPIRATION DAY for Ministers: **Sat 19 Sept at the Spa**. Registration **9.30am**, ends **3pm**. Deadline for names has now passed.

CATECHIST FORMATION PATHWAY 2 continues the programme of formation for parish Catechists, for those who have completed Pathway 1, or those who already have experience in catechetical ministry. **Begins 24 Sept**. To book contact adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk

CHILDREN'S LITURGY DAY Little Hearts, Big Faith: **1pm to 4.30pm on Sat 10 Oct 2026** at **English Martyrs Parish Hall, Dalton Terrace York**. An afternoon of inspiration, formation, and encouragement for Children's Liturgy Catechists. Cost of **£10 pp** will be covered by the parish. Sign up lists at back of church (please be sure you can attend when putting your name down).

PARISH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EVENING 7pm on Friday 16 Oct at Westborough Methodist Church. Are you a singer, musician, dancer, poetry reader, comedian or other entertainer? Contact Michael O'Brien (07920 090709) Tickets on sale soon: **£7**.

PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF DONCASTER (*Our Lady of Yorkshire*). **Speaker Dana**. on **Sat 24th Oct**. List closed **FAMILY RETREAT DAY** at St Paulinus Church, Guisborough, **12pm to 3.30pm Sun 1 Nov**. Family prayer, children's activities, sessions for parents, and time together as families. Bring packed lunch. To book, email adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk

HOME MISSIONS SUNDAY is next Sunday. There will be a voluntary second collection at all Masses.

FEAST OF PADRE PIO (St Pio) MASS OF HEALING for his feast **Saturday 26th September 10am** at St Peters church **AUTISM NEW ONLINE GROUP** Catholics are invited to form an online group for those with lived experience or an interest in autism. Introductory Zoom gathering: **7pm Fri 25 Sept** reflecting the question: *What would help autistic Catholics to know that they truly belong in the Church?* Zoom Link: us04web.zoom.us/j/73297555319?pwd=15aBgrCaDYVMfZnepC2bgx2autdbL1 Chat link us04web.zoom.us/j/73297555319 Meeting ID: **732 9755 5319** Passcode: **9FEBqG**. It will be recorded for those who cannot make it. Email markpaine1970@gmail.com

SUNDAY SMILE I used to be scared of the dark. Now, when I look at my electric bill, I'm scared of the light!