



SCARBOROUGH CATHOLIC PARISHES

CHURCHES OF ST PETER, ST JOSEPH, ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR



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27 SEPTEMBER 2026: 26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE: Week 2

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR 112TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (ABRIDGED)

Dear brothers and sisters. Each year the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** invites us to reflect on different aspects of the complex reality of migration. For this **112th World Day**, the theme, *“Even just one of these children,”* directs our attention to the minors who experience migration and flight, to the care we owe them, and to the Lord's promise: *“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me”* (Mk 9:37).

Displaced minors: a complex reality of vulnerability: Children are the most vulnerable within global movements of migration. They are not statistics but concrete faces with unique stories that challenge our conscience. Every year millions of children and adolescents are forced to leave their homelands because of war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters, and other tragedies, and their number continues to grow. Many have lost parents, siblings, friends, and homes, or witnessed unspeakable violence. Others endure prolonged separation from their families while trying to reunite with them. Even those travelling with their parents are often exposed to extreme and traumatic conditions. We must also remember those separated from their families through repatriation. To these hardships are added further tragedies: deaths along migration routes, trafficking, exploitation, recruitment into armed conflicts, sexual violence, forced marriages, and the many atrocities suffered or witnessed during their journeys. In countless ways, their dignity is violated.

In his *Message for the 2017 World Day of Migrants and Refugees*, dedicated to *“Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless,”* Pope Francis reminded us that migrant children are vulnerable in a threefold way: they are children, they are foreigners, and they often have no means of defending themselves. He appealed to everyone to assist those who are forced to live far from their homeland and separated from their families. Yet amid so much darkness, signs of hope remain. Families open their homes, educators serve in reception centres, and volunteers and aid workers devote themselves to healing the visible and invisible wounds of these children. In doing so, they embody the spirit of the Good Samaritan, refusing to pass by on the other side (cf. Lk 10:29-37). Their commitment bears witness that love can overcome indifference.

Even just one of these children: Faced with this reality, our thoughts turn to the words of Jesus: *“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me”* (Mt 18:5). The Gospel does not ask us to focus on numbers. **It calls us to recognise that even one child matters. Every child possesses infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God** (cf. Gen 1:26), and each reflects the presence of the Lord. **In every migrant child we are invited to encounter Christ himself.** This call is strengthened by another Gospel passage: *“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”* (Mt 25:35). Because migrant children often lack adults able to protect and support them, they are especially vulnerable to neglect and exploitation. Therefore, **action is needed both in countries of origin, to address the causes that force people to flee, and in countries of transit and destination, to provide protection and welcome.** The cry of displaced children rises before God today just as the cry of the Israelites did in Egypt: *“I have observed the misery of my people ... I have heard their cry ... I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them”* (Ex 3:7-8). God hears that cry and appeals to the conscience and action of each of us, as he once called Moses. We cannot be indifferent or become accustomed to such suffering.

An appeal to the responsibility of all: Even just one of these children calls each of us, **in our personal lives, to open our eyes and hearts to their stories, fears, and dreams. We must overcome the detachment that reduces human beings to statistics and instead recognise the dignity of every child before all other labels.** Their fundamental rights must be protected, including the right to life, education, and conditions that allow full physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. Even just one of these children calls us, **in the life of the Church,** to transform welcome from an abstract concept into a lasting pastoral commitment. This responsibility cannot simply be delegated to institutions or organisations with a particular charism. The whole Christian community is called to regard these children as its own sons and daughters and to engage personally with their stories.

Christian communities should actively support the integration of migrants and refugees, recognising them as members of the ecclesial family. Educational and spiritual pathways, including personalised ones, should be fostered, moving beyond a mentality of mere assistance. **Particular care must be taken to prevent loneliness, isolation, and rejection, which often affect migrant children.** Opportunities for encounter should be created so that local young people and young migrants may journey together in mutual respect, solidarity, and friendship. Even just one of these children, **within the horizon of different religions,** reminds us that the vulnerability of the young transcends religious boundaries. **Their protection is a shared humanitarian and spiritual responsibility and therefore a fruitful ground for interreligious dialogue.** Drawing on their religious traditions and sense of transcendence, believers can work together to build networks of protection. Faith communities are called to create environments in which every child is respected and valued in his or her cultural identity, helping to prevent marginalisation and the risk of radicalisation by extremist groups. Ultimately, to protect a child is to safeguard the image of God present within that person. Even just one of these children, **in the context of civil institutions,** calls us to reaffirm the principle of the best interests of the child. **Public and private institutions must place the dignity and protection of every child and adolescent at the centre of their work.** This includes effective legal protections, support for family reunification, and efforts to prevent the trauma caused by separation.

An urgent change of perspective is required. The focus of public debate must move beyond the mere management of migration and towards the full protection of human rights, ensuring a coordinated, supportive, and effective response capable of providing protection, welcome, and genuine opportunities for integration, as recalled in the Address to the Spanish Parliament (Madrid, 8 June 2026).

Conclusion: Let us entrust migrant and refugee children to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Together with Saint Joseph and the child Jesus, she experienced both the cruelty of Herod's violence and the pain of exile in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-15).

MASS TIMES - WEEK COMMENCING 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 – YEAR A 26TH SUNDAY: ORDINARY TIMEMasses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough>

Saturday	26	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Sunday	27	9.30am	St Joseph's	
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	<i>World Day of Migrants & Refugees</i>
Monday	28	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Wenceslaus / Ss Lawrence Ruiz & Comps</i>
Tuesday	29	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS</i>
Wednesday	30	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Jerome</i>
Thursday	1	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (of Lisieux)</i>
Friday	2	9am*	St Peter's - CAFOD Family Fast Day	<i>Holy Guardian Angels</i>
Saturday	3	10am	St Peter's	

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; **OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO:** *that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.* **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** Fridays before Mass. **STATIONS/SACRED HEART DEVOTION** Fridays after Mass, alternating weekly

LATELY DEAD: Alice O'Brien (aged 100), Kaiya Fitzgerald, Leslie Miller; **ANNIV'S:** Vic Rogers, Brian Murphy, A J Mathai; **MASS ATTENDANCE:** Vigil: St Edward's 78; Sunday: St Joseph's 177; St Peter's 174, Polish 55 (est); Total 484; **OFFERINGS:** Loose Plate: £442; Gift Aid Envelopes: £142; Av. Standing Orders: £1,030 (av.); Contactless £54; Polish: £30; Total £1,698. Thank you. 300 CLUB WINNERS: £25 No.37; £10 No.229. £1 for two numbers to join.

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.



112TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES is this Sunday 27 September. It is an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. Theme for Pope Leo XIV's Message this year is "Even Just One of These Children" (see front page)

SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) Appeal talk at all Masses this weekend and a retiring collection. Also recruiting new members.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY is this Friday 2 October - envelopes available at back of all churches this weekend. Do take one and Gift Aid your donation if you can. Go without some food or drink or luxury on Friday and donate the amount to CAFOD.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING Sunday 4 October. Donations of tinned non-perishable foods needed – leave at back of church.

INSTRUCTION FOR CONVERTS (RCIA) Saturdays 11.30am -12.30pm in Parish Office for those interested the catholic faith. 5 people have shown interest. Weekly we study a theme such as Prayer, The Mass, Bible, Church Year, Saints etc

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. 2 attending. 4 people from the parish signed up to go. The church in York is 10 mins walk from the train station

ADOREMUS* (*Let us Adore) 2026 National Eucharistic Congress will take place on Saturday 10 October in London. The Adoremus event that took place in Liverpool in 2018 represented the first major national Eucharistic congress and public procession in England and Wales in over a century, and it was attended by many from our parishes. Local Masses, processions of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hours will unite local parishes with the national gathering. More next week on how Scarborough parishes will participate.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERT EVENING 7pm on Friday 16 Oct at Westborough Methodist Church. **REHEARSAL** there for all entertainers 6pm Wed 14 Oct. Tickets £7 on sale after Mass today. There will be a **RAFFLE - donations of prizes needed** please. Also, Volunteers needed to sell raffle tickets on the night and to ushering people. See Fr Gubbins.

EASTER CHOIR rehearsals some sea shanties for the Parish International Night Concert. meet 7-8.30pm at St Peter's Parish Centre on Mon 28 Sept and 12 & 15 Oct. New members very welcome. No experience needed, just a love of singing.

PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF DONCASTER Sat 24 October. 5 seats available on the 19-seater bus. Cost £30

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

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE The school is collecting items to sell, eg. knitted toys, tree decorations, small hand-crafted gifts. They'll also have a teddy tombola. If you are a crafter or are having a sort out, pass on teddies or toys to the school.

HOME MISSIONS SUNDAY second collection raised £141. Thank you.

SUNDAY SMILE: I've decided to form a choir this Christmas. Anyone can join. So far, we have Dean, Don, Mary, Lee and I.