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SCARBOROUGH CATHOLIC PARISHES

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

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1 NOVEMBER 2026 ALL SAINTS' DAY: CELEBRATING THE GREAT FAMILY OF GOD Divine Office: Week 3

Each year on **1 November, the Church celebrates All Saints' Day**, one of the great Feasts of the Christian year. Many are familiar with the names of famous saints (eg. **St Peter, St Francis of Assisi, St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Bernadette**). Yet this feast is about much more than the saints of church calendars and statues. It is a celebration of the entire family of God in heaven: saints known and unknown, martyrs, missionaries, parents, workers, religious, and countless ordinary believers who lived faithful lives and share in the glory of Christ. It is a day of gratitude, hope, and encouragement for all Christians.

The Origins of All Saints' Day: From the earliest centuries of Christianity, believers honoured those who had died for the faith. **The first Christians especially commemorated the martyrs, gathering at their tombs to celebrate the Eucharist and remember their witness.** As the number of saints grew, the Church recognised the need for a feast that would honour all the holy men and women of every time and place. **In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III dedicated a chapel in St Peter's Basilica to all the saints, and by the ninth century the celebration of All Saints on 1 November had spread throughout the Western Church.** The feast reminds us that holiness is not limited to a few extraordinary individuals. God's grace has been at work in every age, raising up countless disciples whose names may be forgotten on earth but are known to God.

The Biblical Foundation: Although the specific liturgical Feast of All Saints developed over time, its roots are deeply biblical. In the Book of Revelation, St John sees: *"A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb"* (Revelation 7:9). This vision lies at the heart of All Saints' Day. The saints are not a small, exclusive group. They are an immense family redeemed by Christ and united in worship before God. Jesus' Beatitudes, proclaimed in the Gospel for All Saints' Day (Matthew 5:1-12), also reveal the path to sainthood. The poor in spirit, the merciful, the peacemakers, and those who endure persecution are called blessed because they belong to the Kingdom of Heaven. St Paul frequently refers to Christians as "saints" (see Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2). In the New Testament, sainthood is not merely a title for a few heroic figures. It is the calling of every baptised believer. The canonised saints are examples of what God desires for all of us.

The Communion of Saints: The deepest theological meaning of All Saints' Day is found in the Church's teaching on **the Communion of Saints.** After confessing *"the holy catholic Church*," the Apostles' Creed adds *"the communion of saints*. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#946-962) teaches: *"The communion of saints is the Church."* It explains that all who belong to Christ share in a spiritual union through him. The Catechism further explains that the phrase "communion of saints" has two closely connected meanings: communion in holy things, especially the sacraments, and communion among holy persons united in Christ. This means that the Church is larger than what we see on Sunday morning. Catholics traditionally speak of three states of the Church: The Church Militant: believers journeying on earth; The Church Suffering: those being purified before entering heaven; The Church Triumphant: the saints in heaven. All remain united in Christ. Death does not break this bond. Pope Francis described this as "one of the most consoling truths of our faith," reminding Christians that they are never alone but are united in a communion of life with all who belong to Christ.

Why Catholics Honour the Saints: Some people wonder why Catholics give such attention to the saints. The answer is simple: honouring the saints ultimately honours God, whose grace transformed their lives. The saints are not rivals to Christ—they point us to him. Their lives demonstrate what God's grace can accomplish in ordinary human beings. Pope Francis has emphasised that our trust is always in God, and that the saints help us by their intercession and example, leading us closer to Christ (General Audience 2 Feb 2022). This understanding has deep roots in Christian tradition. St Augustine frequently taught that all Christians are members of Christ's Body, united with one another in the Church. St John Chrysostom encouraged Christians not merely to honour the martyrs but to imitate their faith and virtue; "*the honour of a martyr is the imitation of a martyr*" (Sermon on Martyrs). St Bernard of Clairvaux, in a sermon for All Saints' Day, explained that the celebration benefits us by awakening in us the desire to share their heavenly joy and follow their example.

The Universal Call to Holiness: One of the most important messages of All Saints' Day is that holiness is not reserved for a select few. The Second Vatican Council taught that every member of the Church is called to holiness. The Church exists to gather all people into union with God and ultimately into the heavenly assembly of the saints. The saints themselves came from every walk of life. bishops, priests and religious, farmers, teachers, parents, labourers, and children. What united them was not perfection but faithfulness. They allowed Christ to work in their lives. Pope Francis often speaks of the "saints next door" - the ordinary men and women who quietly live the Gospel through kindness, sacrifice, prayer, and love. These hidden saints remind us that holiness is possible in everyday life.

What All Saints' Day Means for Us Today: All Saints' Day is more than a remembrance of the past. It is a celebration of our future. The saints show us what we are called to become. Their lives encourage us when discipleship is difficult, their prayers support us, and their example reminds us that holiness grows through everyday acts of faith, hope, and charity. The Feast also comforts us when we mourn loved ones. Through the Communion of Saints, those who have died in Christ remain united with us, and the **earthly liturgy (every Mass) is a direct participation in the eternal heavenly liturgy, uniting the entire Communion of Saints, including all the angels, saints, and the deceased faithful, across time and space**. The Church is one family spanning heaven and earth. As we celebrate All Saints' Day, we give thanks for the countless holy men and women who have gone before us. We ask their prayers, follow their example, and renew our commitment to Christ. In the words of Scripture, we look toward that day when we too may join the "great multitude" before God's throne, praising him with all the saints forever (Revelation 7:9).



Image: Fra Angelico - Predella of the San Domenico Altarpiece. Portraying the angels and saints gathered around Christ in the glory of heaven

MASS TIMES - WEEK COMMENCING 1 NOVEMBER 2026 – YEAR A **ALL SAINTS DAY**

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

Saturday	**31**	**5.30pm**	**St Edward's**		
Sunday	**1**	**9.30am**	**St Joseph's**		
		9.30am	**St Peter's (Polish)**	**ALL SAINTS DAY**	
		11.30am	**St Peter's**		
Monday	2	10am	St Joseph's	*All Souls Day*	
Tuesday	3	5.30pm	St Edward's	*St Martin de Porres / St Winifride*	
Wednesday	4	**11am**	St Peter's	*St Charles Borromeo*	***Requiem Mass***
Thursday	5	10am	St Joseph's		
Friday	6		St Peter's ** ***No Mass***		***NO MASS***
Saturday	7		St Peter's ** ***No Mass***	*St Willibrord*	***NO MASS or Confessions***

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: Julie Pratt, Vincent White; **ANNIV'S**: Thomas Inglis, Bob Stankiste, Cliff Furness, Anthony & Annie Alonzi, Lucka Joseph, Patricia Derry, Fr Jacobson, Harry Hoggarth, Eliza Dofitas; **MASS ATTENDANCE**: **Vigil**: St Edward's **63**; **Sunday**: St Joseph's **108**; St Peter's **175**, Polish **55** (est); **Total 401**; **OFFERINGS**: Loose Plate: **£512**; Gift Aid Envelopes: **£285**; Av. Standing Orders: **£1,030** (av.); Contactless **£71**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,928**. **Thank you. 300 CLUB WINNERS: £25 No.97; £10 No.71**

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 **three churches** near the entrance. Choose headings carefully when using (headings run onto two pages).

REQUIEM MASS of Francis Vincent (Vin) White (95 yrs)**: 11am Wed 4 November** at St Peter's R C Church. **No 10am Mass.**

ROSARY & BLESSING OF GRAVES at Woodlands Cemetery at **3pm on Sunday 1 November today**. Meet at the entrance.

PLENARY INDULGENCE for souls in Purgatory: 1) on one days between **1 to 8 November** visit devoutly **a cemetery** or simply pray mentally for the dead; 2) on All Souls Day **visit a church** with a devotion & **recite** the Our Father and Creed.

SCARBOROUGH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AGM 7pm Tuesday 3 November at Queen Street Methodist Church. All welcome

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY & BISHOPS of Diocese 12 noon Wed 4 Nov at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. All welcome.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE at the War Memorial **next Sunday 8 November after the 11.30am Mass** at St Peter's. The car park will be closed, but you can park in the car park of the Business Centre – former St Peter's Old School (Sundays only).

NOVEMBER HOLY SOULS' ENVELOPES and **sheets** are available at back. Add the **names of your departed loved ones and return together with a money donation.** Masses will be offered every week throughout November. Monday is the Feast of All Souls

CELTIC VARIETY SHOW Presented by ***Kevin O'Connor's School of Irish Dancing***: **2pm on Sun 8 Nov** at the YMCA Theatre on St Thomas Street. Seats **£10**. Book via YMCA Box Office: Tel **01723 506750** or online at ***ymcayorks.uk***. See the colourful Poster

3 DAY ICONOGRAPHY RETREAT for beginners: **Tue 10 to Thu 12 November** at St George's Church, Eastfield. No experience needed. Full tuition & all materials provided. Led by Canon Ian Holdsworth, Iconographer. **Fees £125**. Email: ***canonianh@gmail.com***

WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE. Box of poppies at the back of each church. Give a donation. Monies go to War veterans

10TH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR Caritas Middlesbrough invites everyone to a day of prayer, reflection and solidarity at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, **10.30am to 3.15pm on Saturday 14 November**. Fr Chris Hughes will speak on ***No Justice, No Peace***, exploring how we can work towards a just peace in our communities, All welcome. **Bring packed lunch**. Refreshments provided.

POPE LEO XIV Following surgery on **October 13** which removed a lung adenocarcinoma and the lower lobe of his right lung, Pope Leo XIV's doctors reported that the disease was localised and that no further treatment is necessary. We pray for and give thanks for his recovery.

BABY REMEMBRANCE WINDOW with lighted candle has been moved back to the Remembrance Chapel where it is more appropriate. Parents, please **SUPERVISE ALL CHILDREN** using the chapel for safety reasons and safeguarding purposes.

HOLY SHOPS at St Peter's and St Joseph's: open after Sunday Masses. Christmas stock coming soon. Pay a visit.

ST JOSEPH'S MINISTERS OF THE WORD Confirm you wish to continue to read at Sunday Mass by end November. Contact Deb on 07503 212224. New rota for 2027 available in December. If you wish to become a Minister of Reader, speak to Fr Gubbins.

CAFOD AUTUMN FAST DAY envelope collection raised **£280** for CAFOD. Thank you once again for your continued giving.

ST JOSEPHS HEATING UPDATE The **HCC** again rejected **the 8 Infra-Red Chandeliers as the ceiling would not take their weight.** A **new gas boiler to be fitted** & inside cut floor channels & run new pipes & connect to **cast the iron radiators**.

FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNION I would like feedback from parents as to whether we should raise the age of 1st Confession/Holy Communion from **Year 4 to Year 5.** The children would be more mature at ***aged 10yrs*** & better able to understand. Presently the children are mainly aged 9 years. **I am seeking the opinion of the Parents of children in Year 4** and the views of teachers and Catechists about this. Replies by **email only** via the parish email (see top of newsletter), addressed to Fr Gubbins.

SUNDAY SMILE*: We didn't have much growing up. I once had a birthday party at the laundrette – the highlight was playing pass the Percil!*