

PRISONERS' SUNDAY/ WEEK – A LETTER FROM BISHOP MARCUS STOCK

Theme this year: *All Are Invited*, focusing on radical hospitality and inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14). Bishop Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds and Apostolic Administrator to the Diocese of Middlesbrough and Hallam, asks for our support this Prisoners Sunday:

Prisoners' Sunday, this year falls on **11 October**. It is the National Day of Prayer for prisoners and their families. **It is an opportunity for us all to direct our thoughts and prayers to the needs of the men, women and young people in prison and their children and families, and to support the national Catholic charity which serves them.** The number of people in prison in England & Wales is increasing. The total number in prison in UK and Wales at the moment is **87,000 + approx**. There are **83,000 men approx** and **3,000 women approx** and our prisons are in crisis. **In this diocese of Middlesbrough there are six prisons** and, in our communities, there are children and families who have a loved one in prison and who are struggling with stigma, isolation and hardship. It is believed that there are over **200,000 children every year who have a parent in prison**. However, the work of **Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust)** brings hope.



Bishop Marcus Stock

Since 1898, **Pact** has supported prisoners, people with convictions, and children and families. The charity's work is deeply rooted in the Gospel and in **Catholic Social Teaching**. **Pact** continues to restore hope and dignity to thousands of people affected by imprisonment. In HMP Askam Grange, and in over 60 other prisons nationwide, **Pact volunteers and staff work alongside our chaplains** to offer practical and emotional support to help people in prison stay connected with their families, and to cope during their time in prison. Retaining strong family bonds is a significant factor in preventing re-offending- with good family relations, those leaving prison are **39% less likely to reoffend**. **Pact supports building stronger families which leads to safer communities**. I have seen Pact's work firsthand and commend it to you. I ask you as individuals and parish community pray this **Sunday 11 October** for all those affected by the criminal justice system. I would also warmly encourage you to support Pact through the retiring collection to help continue their work in the year ahead. Together we can help prisoners, and their families make a fresh start.

Let us then remember and pray this weekend and throughout the coming week for prisoners and their families. Prisons are in crisis and life for prisoners and their families in our communities is challenging. **Pact, the national Catholic prison charity support prisoners, their families and their children, offering them hope and the chance to turn their lives around.**

Pact's Faith in Action team have resources and opportunities for Catholic people to explore how they might respond to Jesus' challenge, *'I was in prison, and you visited me'*. Information can be found on the **Pact website: www.prisonadvice.org.uk**. The support of Catholic communities makes a huge difference to Pact and to the impact the charity can make for people living through what may well be the worst times of their lives. I express my wholehearted gratitude, on behalf of Pact, for any support you are able to offer. Pact's Head of Faith in Action, Julia Corcoran, can be contacted by e-mail: parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk.

The Prisons Week Prayer:
Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen

HISTORY OF PRISONERS' WEEK

Prisons Week was founded in **1975** by **Bishop Victor Guazzelli** (an auxiliary bishop of Westminster and titular Bishop of Lindisfarne). Since then, the Prisons Week group has prepared resources to enable the Christian community to pray for the needs of all those affected by imprisonment. For nearly fifty years now, Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons. Prisons Week raises awareness and generates prayer. It motivates volunteers to step forward and give their time and gifts, in prisons and in their own communities. It provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) has a longer history. It held its first meeting on **16 September 1898**, as Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society (CPAS) and wasted no time in getting down to the business of supporting prisoners, people with convictions, their children and families. **125 years later**, their name has changed more than once, but their mission remains the same. **Pact's work** embodies the Christian value of mercy and belief in the innate dignity of every human being. Through their campaign they ask each of us to engage with a core element of Catholic social teaching and put our faith into action. Pact now delivers services in more than 60 prisons thanks to the many thousands of people who have made **Pact** what it is.

MASS TIMES - WEEK COMMENCING 11 OCTOBER 2026 – YEAR A				28TH SUNDAY: ORDINARY TIME
Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough				
Saturday	10	5.30pm	St Edward's	
Sunday	11	9.30am	St Joseph's	<i>Prisoners Week</i>
		9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter's	
Monday	12	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Wilfrid (2nd Patron of the Diocese)</i>
Tuesday	13	5.30pm	St Edward's	<i>St Edward the Confessor</i>
Wednesday	14	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Callistus</i>
Thursday	15	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Teresa of Jesus (Avila)</i>
Friday	16	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Hedwig / St Margaret Alacoque</i> WORD & COMMUNION SERVICE – NOT A MASS
Saturday	17	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Ignatius of Antioch</i> NO MASS. No Confessions. No Eucharistic Service
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: <i>that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.</i> DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Fridays before Mass. STATIONS/SACRED HEART DEVOTION Fridays after Mass, alternating weekly				
ANNIV'S: Lina Ford, Pauline Brown, Mickey Gubbins, Eddie O Keefe, John Baker, Victor Gacek, Kathleen Emmerson, Patrick Stephens; MASS ATTENDANCE: Vigil: St Edward's 81; Sunday: St Joseph's 163; St Peter's 179, Polish 55 (est); Total 478; OFFERINGS: Loose Plate: £557; Gift Aid Envelopes: £309; Av. Standing Orders: £1,030 (av.); Contactless £80; Polish: £30; Total £2,006.11. Thank you. 300 CLUB WINNERS: £100 No.79.				
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.				

PATRONAL FEAST OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR Tuesday 13th Oct. We will raise a glass after Mass at the back.

FATHER GUBBINS is away from Fri 16 to Fri 23 Oct. In an emergency, ring **Father Paul Dowling** on mobile 07773 796945

FATHER KIERAN from Madonna House will be covering weekend Masses 17/18 Oct and some weekday Masses.

PRISONERS WEEK (11-17th Oct) theme: *All Are Invited*, focusses on radical hospitality, inspired by the parable of the wedding banquet (*Matthew 22:1-14*). See front for reflection by Bishop Marcus Stock. **2nd collection at all Masses this weekend** for PACT.

CRAFT CLUB at St Joseph's is now the **first Wednesday** afternoon in the month at **1pm**. Newcomers most welcome.

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS MEETING Wednesday 14 October 3.30pm at St Peter's School.

BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK takes place in the UK from **Friday 9 to Thursday 15 October**. The Church unites especially with parents, siblings, grandparents and other relatives grieving a baby who died in or outside the womb. *Day for Life* earlier this year took the theme *The Wonder of the Child in the Womb*, affirming the **dignity and uniqueness of every human child from conception until natural death**, while honouring families grieving baby loss. In his Apostolic blessing, the Holy Father Pope Leo encouraged us to place our hope in the promise of eternal life. He prayed that '*all parents grieving the loss of a child, especially an infant, may find comfort and peace in the knowledge of God's love for them and for their child, for to Him all of them are alive*' (Lk 20:38). In Saint Peters church and in Sant Josephs church there is a **BABY WINDOW** with lighted candle especially for families who grieve.

RAINBOW CENTRE OPEN DAY Wednesday 14 October from 11am - 2pm. Come along and see their great work.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERT NIGHT 7pm Fri 16 Oct. **Rehearsal at Westborough Methodist Church 6pm Wed 14 Oct.** Tickets £7 on sale after Mass. **RAFFLE** - donations of prizes needed. Also help needed to sell raffle tickets. See Fr Gubbins

PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF DONCASTER Sat 24 October. The 19-seater bus is now full. Depart 7.30am

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE 14 Dec. The school is **collecting items to sell**, (knitted toys, tree decorations, 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.

LEGION OF MARY is willing to come to your home **during October to pray the Rosary**, if invited.

ADMISSIONS TO LOCAL ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS for Sept 2027 Applications now open. **St Cuthbert's RC Academy** Trust website at www.scrat.org/Learning. Deadlines: Primary: **15 Jan 2027**; Secondary: **31 Oct 2026**. **Applicants should be baptised.**

INVITATION FROM THE CSSA (The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) is the authorised Inspectorate of Catholic Safeguarding in England and Wales. They would like to hear more perspectives from survivors of abuse in a Catholic Church setting to help inform, influence and impact their work. They are looking for new members to join their survivor panel. A remunerated role, & expenses paid. To find out more, go to <https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/survivors-and-the-cssa-could-you-work-alongside-us/>

PARISH SECRETARY is on annual leave **Monday 12 to Friday 16 October**. All queries to Father Gubbins during this time.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY was **Friday 4 October**. Please hand in envelopes as soon as possible. Do Gift Aid if a taxpayer.

APF RED MISSION BOXES Please return **the money** (not the box) with your name and total amount over the next few weeks

SUNDAY SMILE: *I changed the labels on my wife's spice rack. She doesn't know yet, but the thyme is cumin.*