



# SCARBOROUGH CATHOLIC PARISHES



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

Part of the Middlesbrough Diocesan Trust: Reg. Charity No. 233748

Parish Priest: Canon Edmond Gubbins (St Peter's)

St Joseph's Presbytery  
1 Greyland's Park Grove, YO12 6HT  
Enquiries to St Peter's

St Peter's Rectory  
Castle Road, YO11 1TH  
Tel: 01723 360358

St Edward The Confessor  
Avenue Victoria, YO11 2QS  
Enquiries to St Peter's

Website: <https://www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk/>

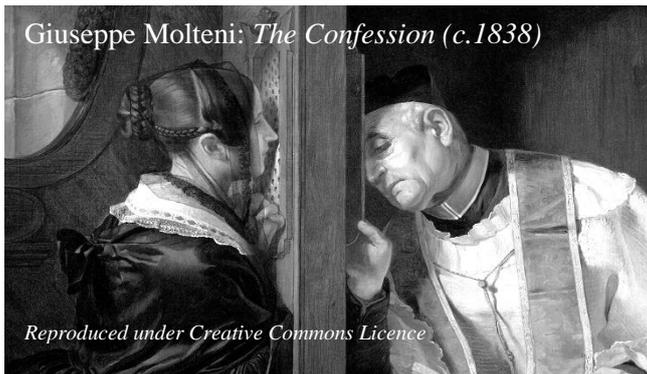
Email: [scarboroughcatholicparishes@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:scarboroughcatholicparishes@rcdmidd.org.uk) or Email: [scarboroughcatholicparishes@gmail.com](mailto:scarboroughcatholicparishes@gmail.com)

|           |          |            |          |          |           |           |
|-----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Welcome   | Fáilte   | Merĥba     | Croeso   | Witajcie | Swagatam  | Mabuhay   |
| Benvenuto | Bienvenu | Bienvenido | Benvindo | Benvindo | Beninguts | Wilkommen |

WEEK COMMENCING 7 MARCH 2021 – YEAR B  
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

DIVINE OFFICE Week 3

## INSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL – WHAT IS IT LIKE FOR A PRIEST



Giuseppe Molteni: *The Confession* (c.1838)

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Many of us have felt awkward about going to Confession - laying bare our souls to God – though the anxiety in most cases is due to focussing on the presence of the priest instead of the presence of God. But have you ever wondered what is it like for a Priest? Is it repetitive and dull, sitting in that little box? Is he disappointed by his penitents – or unimpressed? Does he get depressed hearing about all those sins? Does he remember them? Some might think so, but in fact, as one priest reflects, there is almost no greater place to be than with someone when he or she is coming back to God. The confessional is a place where people let God's love win. The confessional is the most joyful, humbling and inspiring place in the world.

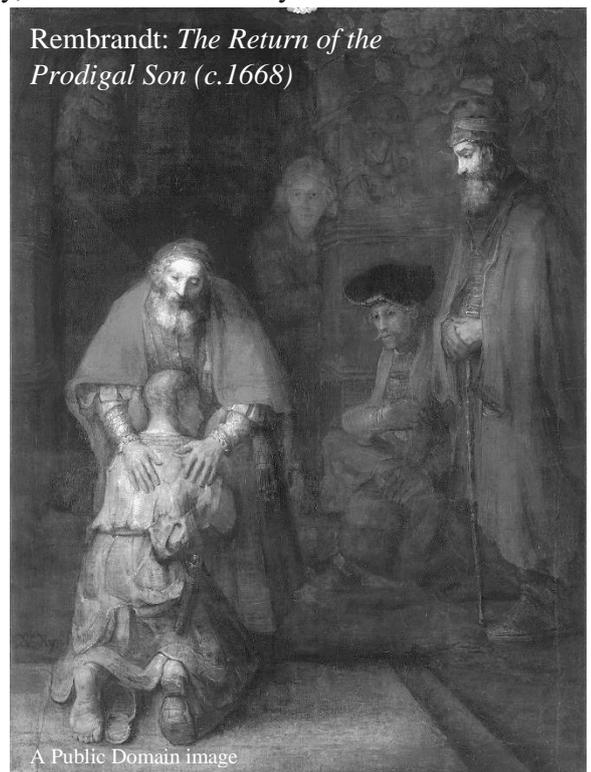
First, the priest sees the mercy of God in action. It is the place where he regularly comes face to face with the overwhelming, life-transforming power of God's love. Seeing God's love so close-up is a reminder of how good God is. Few get to see the way in which God's sacrifice on the cross is constantly breaking into people's lives and melting the hardest hearts. Jesus consoles those grieving their sins, and strengthens those who find themselves wanting to give up on God or on life. And the very gift of God's love and forgiveness to penitents is worked through the priest - the priest gets to participate in a most intimate and special way in God's work of Salvation.

What does the priest see? He sees a person who is trying – stumbling and falling but still trying - a saint in the making. It doesn't matter if it is the person's third confession in a week; the fact that they are there seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation means that person is trying. It is a sign that person hasn't given up on Jesus. That's what matters to a priest – and to God. Was there ever even a saint who didn't need God's mercy! Even Mary needed God's mercy; she received the mercy of God in a dramatic and powerful way at her conception – when she was immaculately conceived.

We try to be so impressive with so much of our lives. Confession is a place where we don't get to be impressive. Confession is a place where the desire to impress has no place – where pride dies and humility takes its place. Think about it: all other sins have the potential to cause us to race *to* the confessional, but pride is the one that causes us to *hide* from the God who could heal us.

So, does the priest remember people's confessed sins? Most sins aren't all that impressive. They aren't like memorable sunsets or meteor showers or super-intriguing movie - they are more like the bits of rubbish we sweep away into the bin. Most of our rubbish is not noteworthy – it ceases to be so when we throw it away; it ceases to stand out. And of course, the priest has heard most of them all before – more times that he could count. Once a person realises that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is less about the sin and more about Christ's death and resurrection having victory in a person's life, the sins lose all their lustre, and Jesus' victory takes centre stage.

In confession, we meet the life-transforming, costly love of God ... freely given to us every time we ask for it. We meet Jesus, who reminds us, "You are worth dying for ... even in your sins, you are worth dying for." Whenever someone comes to confession, the priest sees a person who is deeply loved by God, and a person who is saying that he or she loves God back. That's it, and that's all.



Rembrandt: *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (c.1668)

A Public Domain image

|                       |    |         |                          |                                      |
|-----------------------|----|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday Vigil</b> | 6  | 5.30pm  | St Peter's (LIVE STREAM) |                                      |
| <b>Sunday</b>         | 7  | 9.30am  | St Joseph's              | For Mass intentions see printed copy |
|                       |    | 9.30am  | St Peter's (Polish)      |                                      |
|                       |    | 11.30am | St Peter's (LIVE STREAM) |                                      |
| Monday                | 8  | 7pm     | St Peter's (LIVE STREAM) | St John of God                       |
| Tuesday               | 9  | 12 noon | St Edward's              | St Frances of Rome                   |
| Wednesday             | 10 | 10am    | St Peter's (LIVE STREAM) |                                      |
| Thursday              | 11 | 10am    | St Joseph's              |                                      |
| Friday                | 12 | 10am    | St Peter's (LIVE STREAM) |                                      |
| Saturday              | 13 | 10am    | St Peter's (LIVE STREAM) |                                      |

**MALAYALAM MASS 4pm on 21 Sunday March** in St Peter's Church

**CONFESSIONS 10.30am to 11am Saturdays** at St Peter's; **8.45am to 9.15am Sundays** at St Joseph's  
**ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT 30 minutes** before each *weekday* Mass  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** each **Thurs** at St Joseph's and **Fri** at St Peter's after Mass for Lent (*very short*). *Stay in benches*

**STREAMED MASSES IN OUR PARISH** <https://www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk/> click link at right of screen  
**READINGS AT MASS & Daily Prayer of the Church: QR Code** Links are available on our website & in church porches  
**OUR LADY'S SHRINE** at St Peter's church is daily (*gate closed but unlocked - down steps, see sign on wall*)  
**POPE'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION:** *that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.*

† **ANNIVS:** Joe Greenan, Norah Parker, Mary O'Connor, Joe Brennan † **RECENTLY DECEASED:** Jim Fox, Maureen Grayson  
**MASSES RECEIVED FROM:** O'Connor, Eyre, Wilson, Hodgson, UCM  
**MASS ATTENDANCE last weekend** St Peter's Vigil **31**; St Joseph's 9.30am **83**; Polish **65**; St Peter's 11.30am **79**; Total **258**  
**OFFERINGS** Loose plate **£546**; Gift Aid envelopes **£405**; Polish **£30**; Av. Standing orders **£648**; Total **£1,629**  
**PLANNED GIVING** To sign up for *Offertory Envelope or Standing Order giving*, contact the parish office

 **QUOTES FOR YEAR OF ST JOSEPH:** *In Joseph ... heads of the household are blessed with the unsurpassed model of fatherly watchfulness and care.* Pope Leo XIII

**JUBILEE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH MONTHLY THEMES - MARCH Joseph Most Just:** Joseph was first and foremost just unto God, rendering to Him what was His due. Since all things are due to God, Joseph was perfectly religious in prayer, in labour, and in love giving to God, even as an infant, the energy of his whole life.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY ON FACEBOOK 4-minute video** for children and parents: **Sunday weekly** - visit our parish Facebook page.

**FUNERAL SERVICE (NOT MASS) for Mr Jim Fox** 11.30am on Wednesday 10 March at St Peter's. *Family only.*

**FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2021** We hope to begin **Friday 16 April** in school, after Easter. Date of First Holy Communion Mass(es) will be towards the end of the school year mid-July. **CATECHISTS MEETING Friday 19 March after 10am** Mass at St Peter's in church (with social distancing). Children in Non-Catholic Schools who wish to be prepared get in touch with the Office here before the end of March. Separate evening class will be organised. Children in Year 4 are eligible.

**LENTEN RETREAT: FINDING HOPE IN SCRIPTURE** via Zoom from The God Who Speaks: **Monday** evenings of Lent. Go to <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/word-at-home/lent-at-home/finding-hope-in-scripture/>

**CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME/OUR PLANET Wild flower seeds** will be offered to families at Masses next weekend, instead of daffodils, to plant at home to help bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects and promote diversity of plant life.

**NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH** In conjunction with the Year of St Joseph, begins this week **Wednesday 10 March** in preparation for the Feast of St Joseph, husband of Our Lady on **Friday 19 March**.

**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH PRAYERS** The prayer of Pope Francis' Prayer for the Year of St Joseph, *Hail Guardian of the Redeemer*, given in his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* is available on a **free Prayer Cards** at back of our churches, to be prayed in homes and parishes. The **Novena**, the **Plenary Indulgence**, and other resources are available on Middlesbrough Diocese website at: [www.middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk/year-of-saint-joseph/](http://www.middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk/year-of-saint-joseph/) Another official prayer for the year, "To you, O blessed Joseph" (*Ad te, beate Ioseph*), was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, *Quamquam Pluries* (see <https://www.catholicity.com/prayer/prayer-to-saint-joseph-3.html>). The Holy Father asked that we add an official prayer to the end of the Rosary, especially during October, month of the Holy Rosary.

**HOLY SHOP** items and cards available for *Mother's Day (14 March), St Patrick's Day (17 March), Easter (4 April) & Year of St Joseph*. Pop back in after the end of Sunday Mass at St Peters and St Joseph's Churches.

**CAFOD 10,000 STEPS FOR WATER SPONSORSHIP:** One of our parishioners, aged 15, has taken the challenge to walk 10,000 steps for CAFOD each day of Lent. A Sponsorship form is available if you wish to sponsor her. Parishioners of St Lawrence sponsoring also.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY ENVELOPES** Please return your donation envelope ASAP.

**ENGLISH PASSIONIST PRIEST** On **20 February**, Pope Francis approved the heroic virtues of Ignatius of Saint Paul who will now have the title Venerable. He was born George Spencer in 1799, a son of the 2nd Earl Spencer. He is relative to Diana, Princess of Wales, as well as the great uncle of Second World War Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Spencer family were mostly members of the Church of England. Fr Spencer converted to Roman Catholicism in 1830 in Rome, aged 31, a scandal in Victorian society. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1832 and entered the Passionist Order in 1847. On the death of Blessed Dominic Barberi in 1849, he became Provincial of the Passionist Congregation in England and Belgium. He spent much of his life working for the conversion of England to the Catholic Faith, and was known for his work with the poor, particularly Irish immigrants. He died in 1864, and was buried alongside his predecessor, Fr Barberi, in the Church of St Anne and Blessed Dominic in St Helens, Merseyside. This is a first step in the cause for canonisation (being declared a saint). Two miracles must be attributed to Ignatius of Saint Paul. The first will see him beatified (declared 'Blessed'). A second will pave the way to sainthood.

**SUNDAY SMILE:** Q. *Why can't muggers catch Catholics during Lent?* A. *They fast.*