

SCARBOROUGH CATHOLIC PARISHES

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

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

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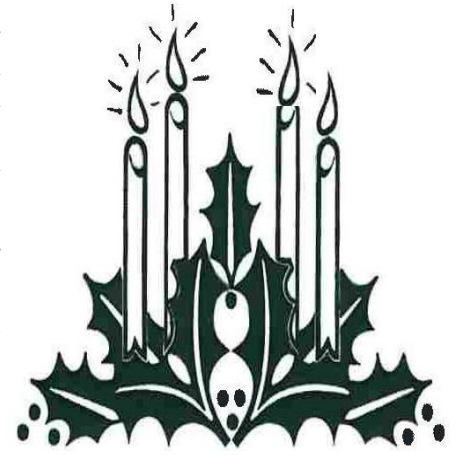
15 DECEMBER 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR C

Divine Office: Week 3

GAUDETE / ROSE SUNDAY

Today is called “*Gaudete*” Sunday because today’s Mass begins with the opening antiphon, “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” (“*Rejoice in the Lord always*”). Today, we light the 3rd Candle, the **Rose Candle** of the Advent Wreath, and the priest may wear **Rose Vestments** to express our communal **joy** in the coming of Jesus, as our Saviour. The common theme running through today’s readings is one of **joy and encouragement**. **The readings stress the need for patience in those awaiting the rebirth of Jesus in their hearts and lives**. They give us a message of **hope** - for people almost three millennia ago, for people at the beginning of the first millennium and for people today. The prophet Zephaniah, in the first reading, encourages his listeners to “*shout for joy... rejoice, exult*” and not to *fear*, as the Lord is “*in your midst*” and will be victorious. In the second reading, St Paul encourages the early Christians to be happy and not worry, as “*the Lord is very near*.” Finally, in today’s Gospel reading, St John the Baptist advises on conduct while they are awaiting the One who is to come, “*who is more powerful*” than John, who will baptise, gather and cleanse his people.

As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the **joy** which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His Kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* (“*Come*”) of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St John: “*Come, Lord Jesus*”, the last words of the New Testament.



Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near

SYMBOLISM OF THE CRÈCHE (REPRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE STABLE AT BETHLEHEM)

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter of 2019, *Admirabile Signum* (*Wonderous Sign*) offered insight into the meaning of the Nativity scene:

- The **night** calls to mind our own darkness and need for the light of Christ.
- The frequently-pictured **caves** and ruins evoke our own fallen humanity and the need for Christ to restore our lives.
- The **surrounding countryside** and the **angels** suggest the eager participation of all of Creation in God’s marvellous plan.
- The **shepherds** become the **first to see** the most essential thing of all: the gift of Salvation.
- It is the **humble and the poor** who greet the event of the Incarnation: those in most need of His love. Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor, so that no one is excluded or marginalized.
- Figures are often present that have no apparent connection with the Gospel accounts, eg. blacksmith, baker, musicians, children: all this speaks of everyday holiness, the joy of doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way.
- **Mary** doesn’t keep her son to herself: she **shows him** to every visitor; **Joseph** stands by as a guardian, obedient to the plans of the Father.
- The **infant Jesus**, when added to the scene, expresses the unfathomable love of the God who empties himself for us.
- The **Magi**, or three kings, suggest our own responsibility, our response to this Wonder of wonders. The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route, but return home to tell others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, “thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations.”

The Christmas Crèche (crib scene) is a simple yet authentic means of portraying the beauty of our Faith. Do consider placing one in your home front window, to bring the Christmas message to others in our local area. Do also pay a visit to the Christmas Crèche in the coming days, and say the family prayer (see card placed by the crib).

SYMBOL OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

In secular society it is often said that the use of a tree is a Pagan custom. There are various legends that say the tree was used as a way of converting the Pagans. Whether true or not, the Christmas Tree is loaded with Christian symbolism. The tree itself is the shape of a **triangle**, symbol of the Most Holy Trinity. A tree is also symbol of **the Fall**, the **branch of Jesse** from which Jesus was born, and the life-giving **tree of the Cross** by which Christ died to remedy that Original Sin. It is **evergreen**, symbolising eternal life. Its needles and its narrow crest **point upward**, turning our thoughts to heaven. **Candles** (now lights) are placed on the tree, symbolising the coming of Christ, Light of the World. The tree was and still is adorned with many ornaments. **Fruit** represents the Garden of Eden. **Baked items** recall the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Manna in the desert, multiplication of the loaves, and the Bread of Holy Communion. **Candy canes** represent the shepherd’s crook of Christ the Good Shepherd who guards His flock. **Bells** are symbol of joy & proclamation. They were also part of the Jewish high priest’s garb, reminding us that Christ is the High Priest. **Angels** announced the birth of Christ. The modern-day idea of **Santa and stockings** is a corruption of Saint Nicholas, fourth Bishop of Myra (Feast Day 6 December), and his generosity. For many, **gifts** are what define Christmas. For Christians the focus is on the act of giving (not receiving), in imitation of the Magi, and in thanksgiving for the greatest of all Gifts – Jesus, who gave Himself to us at Christmas.



CHRISTMAS MASS & CONFESSION TIMES ARE AVAILABLE IN A SEPARATE SHEET

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 15 DECEMBER 2024 – YEAR C **3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Saturday	14	5.30pm	St Edward’s	
Sunday	15	9.30am	St Joseph’s	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		9.30am	St Peter’s (Polish)	
		11.30am	St Peter’s	
Monday	16	10am	St Joseph’s	
Tuesday	17	5.30pm	St Edward’s	
Wednesday	18	11.00 am	St Peter’s	
Thursday	19	10am	St Joseph’s	
Friday	20	12 noon	St Peter’s	
Saturday	21	10am	St Peter’s	<i>St Peter Canisius</i>

MASS IN THE SYRO-MALABAR RITE celebrated monthly **9.30am** on **4th Sunday of month** at St Edward’s Church.

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT weekdays **9.15 - 9.55am** 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 **1st Sunday** monthly; St Joseph’s **Sundays, weekly**
HOLY FATHER’S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: For pilgrims of hope. We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

RECENT DEAD: Arthur (Arty) Breen, Milo Bayly Sissons (2½ yrs), Editha Baker, Geraldine Ledden, Betty McGowen, Zara Jones; **ANNIVS:** Mary Fell, Kathleen Lavelle, Annamma, Chris Stanley Julie Fearon, Edmond Gubbins (Snr); **MASSES REC'D** from: Jimmon, Cranston; **MASS ATTENDANCE: Vigil:** St Edward’s **69**; **Sunday:** St Joseph’s **154**; St Peter’s **165**; Polish **55** (est); **Total 382**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose Plate **£470**; Gift Aid Envelopes **£185**, **Standing Orders £760** (av.); Contactless **£155**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,600. Thank you!** **STANDING ORDER/ONLINE GIVING** Parish Bank: Barclays, Account No: **50003417**, Sort Code: **20-56-90**, Name: *Diocese of Middlesbrough*. **Include a reference** if Gift Aiding your donation (please sign a parish declaration) **OR** donate online at <https://donate.mydona.com/st-peters-church-scarborough>; **YOUTH SUNDAY COLLECTION** raised **£216**. Thank you.
300 CLUB WEEKLY WINNER: £25 No.108; £10 No.54. Congratulations! Spaces available to join: **£1** p/wk for 2 numbers.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES **Christmas Eve: 5.30pm** at St Peter’s (Carols from 5pm); **8pm** at St Joseph’s (Carols from 7.30pm); **Midnight** at St Joseph’s (Carols from 11.30pm); **Christmas Day: 8.30am** at St Edward’s; **9.45am** at St Joseph’s; **9.30am** (Polish) and **11am** at St Peter’s.

CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS **Fri 20th: 1.30pm to 3.30pm** at St Peter’s and St Joseph’s with *Fr Martin Gosling and Fr Thomas Swaffer*; **Sat 21st: 10.30am to 11.30am** at St Peter’s and **4.30pm to 5.15pm** at St Edward’s, both with *Fr Gubbins*; **Sun 22nd: 8.45am to 9.20am** at St Joseph’s with *Fr Gubbins*; **Mon 23rd: 10.30am to 11am** at St Joseph’s with *Fr Kieran Kilcommon*; and **by request**

FUNERAL SERVICE of Irene Fisher (79yrs) of Hovingham Drive: **9.15am Wed 18 Dec** at Woodlands Crematorium with burial.

FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2025: 6 names submitted so far of children in non-Catholic schools. Workbooks have arrived. 29 children in Year 4. So, 35 children in total are eligible this year.

CHRISTMAS MASS LEAFLET A separate leaflet is available at all churches, giving full details of Confession Times for Christmas, the Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Mass times and for the following week up to New Year’s Day. Do consider passing one on to a friend or neighbour or family member who does not usually come to church, and invite them to join us in our Christmas celebrations.

PHOTO OF ST JOSEPH’S PARISHIONERS will be taken **today 15 December** at the end of the **9.30am Mass**, for inclusion in the 65 years booklet. Also, a group photo of the Altar Servers and Children’s Liturgy Group and adult helpers

ST PETER’S SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT 4pm on Tuesday 17 December at **St Joseph’s Church (Key Stage 2)**. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS CRIB will be placed in churches this week. *Crib donations will go to Friends of the Holy Land.*

SEND IN PHOTOS of your Christmas cribs and other Christian Christmas decorations. We will post a gallery of your photos on our Facebook page during the week before Christmas. Please send by email only. Why not place your crib in the front window at home, or Nativity image on the window, as a witness to the world to the real meaning of Christmas.

TREE OF REMEMBRANCE Add names of loved ones to the Tree by writing on tags provided and then hanging it on the tree.

ST AUGUSTINES SCHOOL END OF TERM MASSES in school **Fri 20 Dec: 9.15am (Lower School) 10.30am (Upper school)**. The Parish Mass in St Peter’s Church will be **12 noon**.

CHILDRENS NATIVITY WITH CHILDREN’S CHOIR SINGING at **5.30pm Mass Christmas Eve** at St Peter’s. Any child wishing to be involved see Cleo Robles or Fr Gubbins. Also, a very simple Childs Nativity at St Joseph’s Sunday morning Mass on **22nd December**.

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Cash prizes: 1st prize **£100**; 2nd prize **£50**; 3rd prize **£25**. To be drawn **Sunday 22 December** after St Peter’s 11.30am Mass in the Parish Centre. Donations of good quality prizes welcomed. Tickets now available **£1** ticket, **£5** book. **Please write your name on every ticket** (not just the top one) as they are separated in the draw. There will also be a cake stall

HOUSEBOUND or any in care homes, if anyone wishes to see Fr Gubbins over the Christmas period, get in touch.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS There will be a **collection** at all Masses next weekend **21/22 Dec** for fresh flowers for our churches.

HOLY SHOPS Christmas cards, Baptism cards, Rosaries etc. and the New Translation of the Sunday Missal is now in stock.

ST JOSEPH’S CHURCH 65 YEARS CELEBRATION (1960- 2025) A Committee is needed to help to compile the booklet. 3 people have volunteered so far. Submit your photos of pilgrimages, weddings etc and any articles. The Booklet is to be published in June 2025.

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS) ADVENT APPEAL The Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic organisation, at work in over 50 countries around the world with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. To make a donation, or find out more on the Bishop’s Conference website at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jrs-advent-appeal/>

SUNDAY SMILE: Q. What is the best Christmas present to buy? A. A broken drum. You can’t beat it!