

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 Joseph's Presbytery
1 Greyland's Park Grove, YO12 6HY

St Peter's Rectory
Castle Road, YO11 1TH

St Edward the Confessor
Avenue Victoria, YO11 2QS

Tel: 01723 360358 • Email: scarboroughcatholicparishes@rcdmidd.org.uk • Website: www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk

22 DECEMBER 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR C

Divine Office: Week 4

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Every December and in every country on the planet, people celebrate Christmas. Nativity scenes, Advent wreaths, mistletoe, wrapped gifts, social gatherings, gift giving, stockings, poinsettias, Santa Claus - the ways of celebrating Christmas are endless. Christian families celebrate the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas Masses. The 12 Days of Christmas period begins on Christmas Day and ends on 6 January, the Epiphany or Three Kings' Day. The tradition of gift giving is associated with St Nicholas, the gifts given to the baby Jesus by the Magi, or the gift of God's only son, Jesus, to mankind.

Midnight Mass is a favourite Mass, being the first Mass of Christmas Day. The tradition of midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was first chronicled by Egeria, a Galician woman who went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land around 381. She witnessed how the early Catholics of Jerusalem honoured the Christmas mystery with a midnight vigil at Bethlehem. This was followed by a torchlight procession to Jerusalem, arriving at the Church of the Resurrection at dawn. Half a century later, Pope Sixtus III, inspired by the midnight vigil, instituted the practice of a midnight Mass after the cockcrow in the grotto-like oratory of the famed Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. There are discrepancies, however, as to the exact time of the cockcrow due to the fact that the ancient Romans set it at the start of the day.

La Misa Del Gallo (Spanish: The Mass of The Rooster): also, *Misa de los Pastores* (Shepherds' Mass); is the Midnight Mass celebrated in Spain and many former Spanish colonies. In Spain, locals begin Christmas Eve by lighting small oil lamps in every home, then proceed to church to Midnight Mass. Bolivians attend Christmas Eve Mass, and the celebration is followed by a sit-down meal featuring a traditional bowl of *picana del pollo*, a stew of chicken with peas, carrots, and potatoes. Filipinos are known for their love of festivities and community gatherings. Their version of the Misa de Gallo is *Simbang Gabi* (Tagalog for Night Mass), also called *Misa de Aguinaldo* (gift mass). *Simbang Gabi* is associated with a nine-day novena procession which involve a series of nine dawn Masses, as well as a reenactment of the search for lodgings by Joseph and the pregnant Virgin Mary, known as the *Panunuluyan*. The *Misa de Gallo* refers specifically to the last Mass on Christmas Eve. In Zamboangueno Chavacano (language spoken in the Zamboanga region), the series of masses is also called *Misa de los Pastores*. Mexicans also celebrate the Nine Nights leading up to Christmas with a reenactment of the search for lodgings by Joseph and Mary. The word *posada* means "inn" or "lodging" in Spanish. Children process singing, with candles and painted figures of Joseph, and Mary on a donkey, calling at friends' houses, asking for lodging. They are told that there is no room, but eventually they are welcomed in, and the children offer prayers of thanks and have a party. In Puerto Rico, locals celebrate Mass by singing Christmas songs, which they call *aguinaldos*. The more religious versions of these songs are called *villancicos* and the ones with a Criollo inspiration are called *décimas navideñas*. In Venezuela, the *Misa de Gallo* is only one of a series of Masses held at dawn called *Misa de Aguinaldo*. The name comes from the Spanish word for Christmas box. The Masses are held for nine days, culminating on Christmas Eve. The songs of the liturgy are replaced by songs of the "gaita" genre, which is a folk genre from the Zulia state, and which are heard most widely throughout the country during Christmas. The lyrics of gaitas are approved as liturgical songs. In Caracas, the capital and largest city of Venezuela, there is a unique custom of roller-skating to Mass. In Colombia, it is customary to honour the Virgin Mary and the Immaculate Conception by placing lanterns on balconies, window sills, and front yards. The people of Ireland put a tall, thick red candle on the sill of the largest window after sunset on Christmas Eve. This candle is left to burn all night as a welcoming light for Mary and Joseph Irish families.

Epiphany, also known as **Three Kings' Day**, is the Christian Feast Day that commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. Many countries choose to give their Christmas gifts on this day, associating their giving to the giving of the Magi. Other customs associated with Epiphany include: Eating a cake called *La galette des Rois* in France; Writing a special sign in chalk over the front door in Austria; Singing holiday carols called *aguinaldos* in Latin American countries; Tasting the *Rosca de Reyes*, or Kings' bread, in Mexico; Swimming in the Vitava river in Prague, Czech Republic.

Other Traditions: In Greenland Inuit villagers visit each other, eating festive treats and exchanging traditional gifts such as miniature sleds, polished walrus tusks, or sealskin mittens. Children go out carol singing. Most homes and village centres display a brightly lit star, which is both festive and practical as Greenland is so far north that in winter months the sun doesn't appear, leaving residents in a perpetual midnight. Greenlanders' Christmas meals include *mattak*, whale skin with a strip of blubber inside. Armenia During the week leading up to Christmas, many Armenian families fast in ways similar to Christians who do so during Lent. Armenia clergy will often fast for 40 days leading up to Christmas. Large Christmas tree (*Tonatsar*) is put up in Republic Square in the capital, Yerevan. India is predominantly Hindu. Christians make up less than 3 percent of the population. Churches are decorated with poinsettia flowers and candles for Midnight Mass. Instead of traditional Christmas trees, a banana or mango tree is decorated. In southern India, Christians display small oil burning clay lamps on the flat roofs of their homes to show their neighbours that Jesus is the light of the world. Christianity came to Ethiopia as the result of a kidnapping. Two Christian residents of Tyre were abducted on the Red Sea and taken to the then capital, Aksum where they became slaves. Because they were highly educated, they were employed as private tutors to the royal family, teaching not only academic subjects, but also passed on the fundamentals of their Christian faith. In the middle of the 4th century, King Ezana decided to be baptised and Christianity was proclaimed the state religion. Christmas foods in Ethiopia include *wat* which is a thick and spicy stew that contains meat, vegetables, and sometimes eggs. *Wat* is eaten on a plate of *injera*, a flat bread. The Christmas celebration is called *Ganna*. Christmas Mass begins at 4am. Gifts are not that important and are usually practical items from family to children.

Finland. Most people try to be at home for Christmas, including fishermen who try to get their boats into the harbour in good time. Animals are included in festivities with farmers hanging a sheaf of wheat on a tree to be eaten and pecked at by the birds. The main meal is on Christmas Eve and includes *lutefish* (salt fish) or pork with mashed potato. Cured salmon is popular, as is turkey. Whoever finds the almond is believed to be blessed with luck for the next year. Christmas Day & Boxing Day are generally quiet with relaxation and ice skating being very popular.



WELCOME TO ALL WHO HAVE COME HOME AND WHO JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES
FR GUBBINS & PARISHIONERS OF SCARBOROUGH PARISHES WISH YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 22 DECEMBER 2024 – YEAR C **4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Saturday 21	5.30pm	St Edward’s	
Sunday 22	9.30am	St Joseph’s	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	9.30am	St Peter’s (Polish)	
	11.30am	St Peter’s	
Monday 23	10am	St Joseph’s	<i>St John Kanty</i>
	10.30-11am	<i>Confessions at St Joseph’s with Fr Kieran Kilcommon</i>	
Tuesday 24	5.30pm	St Peter’s (Carols from 5pm)	CHRISTMAS
	8pm	St Joseph’s (Carols from 7.30pm)	EVE
	Midnight	St Joseph’s (Carols from 11.30pm)	
Wednesday 25	8.30am	St Edward’s	CHRISTMAS
	9.30am	St Peter’s (Polish)	DAY
	9.45am	St Joseph’s	
	11am	St Peter’s	
Thursday 26	12 noon	St Joseph’s	<i>ST STEPHEN, PROTO-MARTYR</i>
Friday 27	12 noon	St Peter’s	<i>ST JOHN EVANGELIST</i>
Saturday 28	10am	St Peter’s	<i>HOLY INNOCENTS</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 (there may be changes during Christmas period) 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: Geraldine Wilkinson (formerly Ledden), Irene Fisher; **ANNIVS:** Elaine Bellamy, Chris Stanley, Peggy Ellard, Lucy Alonzi, Brenda Stephenson, John Devine, Anna Jaconelli, PJ George, Charlotte, John and Patrick Devine, Fr Dermot Noonan;

MASS ATTENDANCE: Vigil: St Edward’s **82**; **Sunday:** St Joseph’s **118**; St Peter’s **167**; Polish **55** (est); **Total 422**; **OFFERINGS:** Loose Plate **£707**; Gift Aid Envelopes **£290**, **Standing Orders £760** (av.); Contactless **£13**; Polish: **£30**; **Total £1,800. 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/>;



300 CLUB WEEKLY WINNER: £25 No.234; £10 No.224. Congratulations! Spaces available to join: **£1** p/wk for 2 numbers.

REQUIEM MASS of Geraldine Wilkinson (formerly Ledden) of Aberdeen: **11am Monday 6 January 2025** at St Peter’s Church.

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. Thanks to our visiting priests Fr Kieran and Fr Gallagher who are helping to provide extra Masses. It may not always be so in Scarborough parishes.

CHRISTMAS CRIBS are in place in all our churches. *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. 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 (as the slogan says “Put Christ back into Christmas”).

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

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

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAWN TODAY after St Peter’s 11.30am Mass in the Parish Centre. Still some last-minute tickets available **£1** ticket, **£5** book. Cash prizes: 1st **£100**; 2nd **£50**; 3rd **£25**. There will also be a cake stall.

FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION 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. Meeting of all parents and catechists in January.

PARISHES NEW YEAR DINNER AT NORTH CLIFF GOLF CLUB 7.30pm Friday 31 January. Cost **£25** per person. Names to lists if you would like to book a place.

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS, please endeavour to hand your cards to the recipient rather than leaving them at back of church. Parishioners, please keep an eye out for any cards left for you at back of church and collect them quickly, to avoid a build-up.

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

HOLY SHOPS Christmas cards etc, 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.

NEWSLETTER CORRECTION: 300 club results in the previous 4 newsletters have shown the same numbers. Corrections are as follows: 17 Nov 108 & 54; 24 Nov 223 & 41; 1 Dec 153; 8 Dec 179 & 77.

SUNDAY SMILE: *I don’t usually agree with genetically modified food, but last night I had a lovely leg of salmon!*

CHRISTMAS CRACKER Q. *Where does Santa pay to park his sleigh? A. It’s on the house!*