



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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12 JANUARY 2025 – BAPTISM OF THE LORD: YEAR C

Divine Office: Week 1

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD IN THE RIVER JORDAN

At this weekend's Masses we will renew our Baptism Promises and bless and be sprinkled with Holy Water. It is a custom in some countries to take Holy water home and sprinkle our homes with it, imploring Gods protection.

Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit (John 3:5)

The Baptism of Christ (c.1460) by Italian Renaissance master **Piero della Francesco (1415-1492)**, now housed in the National Gallery, London, was painted as an altarpiece for the chapel of St John the Baptist in the communal church of the Camaldolese monks, a contemplative hermit order, in his native town of Borgo San Sepolcro in Tuscany. One Sacrament, that of Baptism, is shown at the moment of its foundation, in an image to go above the altar, and so preside over the other Sacrament, the Mass. The Sacred body, in which God dwells, central to both Sacraments, is placed with exact centrality. His holy being is washed for His holy work of Redemption.

Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased (Mark 1:9-11)



This is an image of **contrast in two halves**. The axis of it all is Christ, placed as He is between the left side of 'stillness & calm', and the right side, of 'business & activity'. The dove expresses both action and stillness in its hovering, adding to the contrast of stillness and activity in the image.

This is also an image with a **vertical dynamic**. All the figures are standing. The tree in the foreground runs from the bottom to the top of the image, connecting earth with the heavenly realm, as Baptism connects the human with the divine.

This impressive **tree** is firmly rooted in the ground, while its lofty crown arches like a canopy over Christ's Body, and over the central action of the image. Its leaves point from heaven downwards, as if metaphorically declaring, "Thou art my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".

The dove descends upon Jesus, as told in Scripture (Matthew 13:17) and, with the tree, further emphasises the downward motion of the divine anointing, and completing the presence of the Holy Trinity.

Behind the bending man are **4 Pharisees and Sadducees** who, according to Matthew 3:7, were present at John's baptisms and were denounced by him. They are heavily clothed. They were only there to "inspect" the goings-on, believing themselves to have no need of baptism.

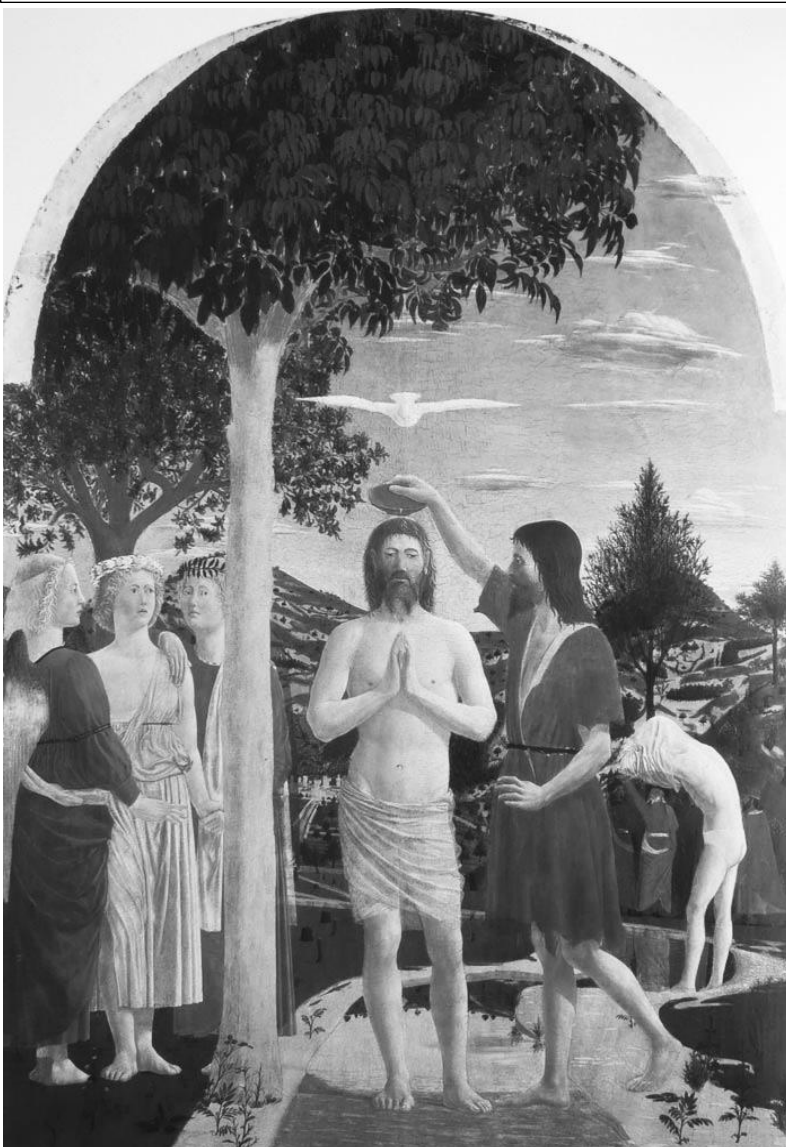
We are addressed by the solid grace of **Christ's pale, luminous body** which stands isolated from the other grouped and overlapping figures. By His sacrificial death, the life of the isolated one becomes the life of the many. Christian baptism is a separation – a ritual death which is a passing-over into new life.

Jesus is depicted naked apart from the loincloth that he wears – dressed as He will be when His sacrifice on the cross is consummated.

Jesus gazes down. His posture is prayerful as He ponders the meaning of His anointing and His sacrificial destiny that His naked vulnerability suggests.

Christ's feet are placed where the water of the stream changes from calm mirror of the hills, to shallow and stony. It is a moment of transition from death to life. Although naked, as he will be at His death, to which Baptism commits Him, the pink cloak left with the angel will clothe His resurrected body - Piero clothes Jesus in the same pink cloak in a fresco in the nearby town hall, of Jesus rising omnipotent from the tomb.

On the right **a man pulls on his shirt** after he has been baptised. His flesh tone matches that of Jesus, a clear indication that this man, in his humanity, is now joined to Christ. Notice the diagonal dynamic from St John's baptising hand, through his arm and down into the man's arched torso. Rising behind this man, a tree points sharply towards the heavens, indicating the **divine destiny of those who are untied to Christ through Baptism**.



MASS TIMES WEEK COMMENCING 12 JANUARY 2025 – YEAR C				BAPTISM OF THE LORD	
Masses at St Peter's Church are also LIVE STREAMED via YouTube: https://youtube.com/@stpeterschurchscarborough					
Saturday Vigil	11	5.30pm	St Edward's		
Sunday		9.30am	St Joseph's	<i>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i>	
	12	9.30am	St Peter's (Polish)		
		11.30am	St Peter's		
Monday	13	10am	St Joseph's	<i>St Hilary</i>	
Tuesday	14	5.30pm	St Edward's		
Wednesday	15	10am	St Peter's		
Thursday	16	10am	St Joseph's		
Friday	17	10am	St Peter's	<i>St Anthony of Egypt</i>	
Saturday	18	10am	St Peter's (<i>not a Mass</i>)		<i>SERVICE OF THE WORD & HOLY COMMUNION</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 JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION: <i>Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.</i>					
RECENT DEAD: David Ison, Hilario Odgers. ANNIVS: Evan Harris, Mel Brown, Grace Gubbins, Colin Fearon; MASS ATTENDANCE: Vigil: St Edward's 68 ; Sunday: St Joseph's 89 ; St Peter's 161 ; Polish 55 (est); Total 373 ; OFFERINGS: Loose Plate £499 , Gift Aid Envelopes £234 , Standing Orders £760 (av.); Contactless £55 ; Polish: £30 ; Total £1,578 . Thank you! STANDING ORDER/ONLINE GIVING Parish Bank: Barclays, Account No: 50003417 , Sort Code: 20-56-90 , Name: <i>Diocese of Middlesbrough</i> . 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: £100 No.82 . Congratulations!					



FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD is this **Sunday 12 January**. We invited all families who had a child baptised during 2024 to join us for St Peter's 11.30am Mass on this day. Names will be called out and families should come forward.

FIRST CONFESSION/HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION Parents & Catechists meeting **11.15am on Wednesday 15 January** in St Peter's School. First Communion meeting for parents **6.30pm on Wednesday 22 January** in St Peter's Church. First Holy Communion will be celebrated in June near the Feast of Corpus Christi. There is a LIST at the back of each church for parent to write the names of children who wish to be included who are in **non-catholic** schools.

FR GUBBINS will be away for only a few days for a post-Christmas break. Fr Thomas will cover Thursday and Friday Masses this week, Fr Frank Gallagher will cover weekend Masses and Fr Kieran will say Monday Mass as usual. Fr Gubbins will be back for Tuesday evening Mass.

ROSARY & DIVINE MERCY PRAYER this Sunday 12 January POSTPONED due to illness. They will hold this instead **2.30pm on Sunday 19 January** (contact the parish office for address). Refreshments provided. All invited.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL will take place on **Sunday 26 January**. There will be a second collection.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 to 25 January – Octave of Ss Peter & Paul. More info in next week's newsletter.

58TH WORLD DAY OF PEACE is next **Sunday 19 January**. Theme this year *Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace*. The theme chosen by Pope Francis was inspired by the concepts of forgiveness and hope, which are central to the Jubilee. The Jubilee is a time for conversion, and Pope Francis' message is that we should seek reconciliation and peace, rather than condemnation. Read Pope Francis' message at: www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20241208-messaggio-58giornatamondiale-pace2025.html

NEW YEAR DINNER AND TABLE QUIZ at North Cliff Golf Club Friday 31st January 7.15 for 7.30pm. Cost £25 pp

MENU CHOICES FOR NEW YEAR DINNER at North Cliff Golf Club 7pm Friday 31 January. Cost £25 per person. Collect a menu sheet, enter your choices and place in an envelope together with your payment return deadline Sunday 19 January. Menu:

Cream of vegetable soup or prawn cocktail or vegetable soup (vegan); steak pie or salmon or nut roast with tomato sauce (vegan); treacle sponge or cheese & biscuits or fruit salad (vegan); tea or coffee. Please state if you have any other special dietary needs.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 65 YEAR CELEBRATION 1960-2025 We will soon call a meeting for those wishing to help compile the anniversary booklet. We still need some more photos. *Could someone write a short article on the Remembrance Chapel and its plaques*

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2025 now available **£1**. A useful resource of info about parishes and across the diocese, schools and lots more, plus the full liturgical calendar for 2025.

SOUP KITCHEN (WARM SPACE) open at YMCA on St Thomas Street, Scarborough from 12 noon until **31 March**. *Please spread the word to anyone who may benefit.*

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 PILGRIMAGE TO LISIEUX FRANCE MONDAY 27 April to Friday 2 May 2025 There is an A4 sheet at the back of church for those travelling asking for **passport details and insurance and persons sharing** (persons sharing need only one form) to be filled in and returned to the Parish office. We have **40** people travelling. Full payment by 1 March. **Total cost £465. (+£80 for single room)** Includes coach, ferry, two nights B&B and three nights full board. Departure will be 7.30am on the morning we set off for ferry.

READERS AT ST PETER'S new Readers' Rota is being prepared. If you would like to be added or removed from the Rota please let him know. **26 January is Sunday of the Word of God**. On this day, all readers will be re-commissioned at the 11.30am Mass at St Peter's. Please do your best to be there.

FOODBANK CONTRIBUTION BOX Please consider buying an extra tin or dried food item(s) when you are next shopping and bringing it to the Church foyer, where we have re-introduced the Foodbank box. Please ensure it has a long use by date on it. SVP will distribute to needy families with the help of our schools.

SUNDAY SMILE: *A blind man asked if he could borrow £20. I said yes but asked when can I have it back? He said the next time I see you!*