

Goodbyes & Hellos

As announced earlier on *Saturday, 4 September*, there will be an informal light collation of wine and cakes in the presbytery garden to “meet and greet” Fr Hugh, from *2 to 4pm*. Abbot Geoffrey will be present as well. If you know any friends or neighbours who are past parishioners or no longer attend for one reason or another, please extend an invitation to them to join us. It would be a great opportunity for the parish to reconnect with them. For the record, anyone in the village would be welcome!

On *Sunday 5 September*, Abbot Geoffrey will induct Fr Hugh as parish priest at the 9.30am Mass.

Service in the Parish

Thank you to all who offered to undertake, or resume, various roles of service to the parish. Fr Hugh now has sufficient names to begin offering invitations to participate in these various roles. He will begin doing so after he returns from the Douai retreat.

Improvements & Repairs

The process has begun of making repairs and improvements to the presbytery and parish office, as well as in the church and its grounds. The presbytery suffers from noticeable damp, so new windows will be needed as well as new floor coverings in places. Other work is smaller in scale and more cosmetic, such as painting and cleaning. Unhelpful or unnecessary furniture is being given away to those who can collect it, at no cost to the parish, and reused or up-cycled. Some of the pieces have gone to those of limited financial means. Thanks to all those who have been helping in this already. ☚

/ GET IN TOUCH

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St Elizabeth's Catholic Church Scarisbrick



A Mission of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
(Registered Charity N^o 1063237)
within the Archdiocese of Liverpool

Priests: Fr Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB
Fr Godric Timney OSB
Fr Boniface Moran OSB

29 AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY OF WEEK 22 *Per Annum*

SUNDAY 29 th 9.30AM	MASS	†Joe & Peggy Vose <i>(2nd Collection: Mary's Meals)</i>
MIDWEEK	NO MASS	<i>Frs Hugh, Godric & Boniface on annual retreat at Douai</i>
SUNDAY 5 th SEPT 9.30AM	MASS OF INDUCTION	†Adrian Mott, Elizabeth Reavey, & Christopher McLoughlin

REVISED MASS TIMES

From the *week beginning 5 September* the following Mass times will be adopted:

Sundays: Vigil **6.30pm (Saturday)**, with confessions from 6pm;
9.30am

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays: **9.30am**

Thursdays: **7pm**, with confessions and rosary from 6.30pm

Holy Days of Obligation: **9.30am; 7pm**

Decisions

THE SCRIPTURE AT MASS this weekend confronts us again with the Church's consistent challenge to her members: to be not just hearers of God's law, but doers of it as well. Very often we tend to think of this as an exhortation or pep talk, which might spur us on for a few days of vigorous Christian living, until the cares of our own little lives, and the subtle temptation to look after oneself first, begin to assault us again.

But these words of scripture, and especially of our Lord, are not merely offering a recommendation; they are presenting us with what we might call an ultimatum. *If you really are Christian, then your life must match the words of God's teaching.* There is no alternative offered. We might fail occasionally, or often, to be sure. But sincere repentance is always possible—that is what the sacrament of confession is there for. Sadly, most Catholics today rarely enter a confessional, which is odd because most Catholics are from being saints without sins to confess!


What God is interested in is not the perfection of our Christian living, but its sincerity. If we are truly trying to match the works of our hands to the words of faith from our lips, then we allow God space to work within us, offer him an open door to our hearts, even if they might be a tad dilapidated. But a faith that never progresses beyond words is no more than a closed door to God. Not that we can keep God out, as it were, but since he respects our freedom, he will not batter his way in. That does not mean he will not try to persuade us; as we know, there is nothing like a spell of misfortune to get us praying again!

As we seek to find a suitable charity for Afghan refugees that we can support, we have before us the sad spectacle of Haiti's latest disaster. The earthquake has literally shattered further an already ramshackle nation. Perhaps this weekend we can renew our commitment to a faith that lives beyond words by donating to the retiring collection, which will be directed to *Mary's Meals* Haiti appeal. It is a fine charity and we can trust them to use donations well.

Be a good tree. Do not fool yourself that you can produce good fruits if you are a bad tree; good fruit comes only from a good tree. So, change your hearts and your actions will change too. Weed out greed and plant love. —St Augustine, Sermon 36

Fr Hugh

The sick and others needing prayer

 Jim Charnock, Sarah Gibbons, Stuart C, Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Winnie Church, Eva Molyneux

» *With Covid restrictions easing, but the number of home visits growing, we have begun gradually re-introducing Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to help Fr Hugh meet this important need.*

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

 Paul Ackers, Bill Clegg, David Youds

Farewell to Frs Godric & Boniface

Thank you to all who contributed to the farewell gift for Frs Godric and Boniface. The parish will give them each a cheque for £360. Fr Godric was farewelled in the presbytery garden last Friday, and it proved a very pleasant and positive occasion. Thanks to all who helped prepare for it, and clean up after it. Fr Boniface will be farewelled at Mass on Sunday, 12 September.

Commitments

From Sunday 29 August, the monks of Douai Abbey will hold their annual retreat at Douai. Fr Hugh will return, with Abbot Geoffrey, the evening of Friday, 3 September. So for this coming week there will be no mid-week Mass.

Training

By last Friday Fr Hugh had received sufficient offers to begin, or resume, these roles. He will be in touch after he returns from Douai to invite people up to the required numbers to undertake the necessary training.

Haiti Appeal

Finding a Catholic charity for Afghan refugees has proven difficult. While we keep looking we will instead take a retiring collection for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, in particular the appeal run by *Mary's Meals*, which has been on the ground in Haiti for 15 years.