



St Elizabeth's Catholic Church Scarisbrick

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

Parish Priest: Fr Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

**— 12 SEPTEMBER 2021 —
SUNDAY OF WEEK 24 *Per Annum***

SATURDAY 11/9 6.30PM	MASS (VIGIL)	†Len Culshaw <i>Confessions at 6.00pm</i>
SUNDAY 12/9 9.30AM	MASS <i>(Vale Fr Boniface)</i>	†Thomas & Mary Dobson <i>11am Baptism: Isaac Harnick</i>
MONDAY 13/9 9.30AM	MASS	†George & Margaret Wright
WEDNESDAY 15/9 9.30AM	MASS	Private Intention (SC)
THURSDAY 16/9 7.00PM	MASS	Benefactors <i>Confessions at 6.30pm</i>
FRIDAY 17/9 9.30AM	MASS	Private Intention (JC)
SATURDAY 18/9 6.30PM	MASS (VIGIL)	†Mary Ashcroft <i>Confessions at 6.00pm</i>
SUNDAY 19/9 9.30AM	MASS	†Mark Houghton

The Future

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO we farewelled Fr Godric as parish priest of St Elizabeth's. This Sunday we say farewell (*vale* in Latin) to Fr Boniface after his many years assisting in the service of our parish at Scarisbrick. Last weekend Abbot Geoffrey instituted me as parish priest here (and he enjoyed his visit immensely). These changes should prompt us to give thanks for the past and to look with hope to the future. There is much for us to be doing!

Over the next few weeks we will begin training or refreshing our readers and eucharistic visitors. Some are already assisting in these ministries, especially in the vital service of taking Communion from the parish Mass to the significant number of those who cannot be with us at Mass through illness or infirmity.

At 11am this Sunday I will baptise Isaac Harnick into the Body of Christ through the gateway of our parish community. On Friday I went with Mary Ormsby for a two-hour visit to St Mary's School, talking with the headmaster, Mr Nolan, and meeting the children. An immediate fruit of that visit will be a school harvest service in the church on 24 September, at which the children will bring their offerings and help decorate the church for Harvest Festival. We have even more plans afoot!

Over the coming weeks we have other baptisms to perform, some weddings too, plans for a new parish meeting room to discuss, a presbytery to repair and plans for the presbytery garden to implement. But our main priority must remain, growing our congregation in numbers and in holiness, and that latter goal includes your priest.

Fr Hugh

Parish Choir

Our choir is beginning to sing again after the Covid restrictions. There is room for some more members. So if you can sing and are keen, contact Mary Ormsby in the office.

» Office Hours «

Please note that from now on Mary will be in the parish office **from after morning Mass on Mondays and Fridays, until 12.30pm.**

Retiring Collection

This weekend there is a retiring collection for the diocesan **Catholic Education Service**. Next weekend there will be a retiring collection for the diocesan **Home Missions**.

The sick and others needing prayer



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

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)



Mary Dobson, Christina Poyton

Thank You

Thank you for your support for the *Meet & Greet* for Fr Hugh last Saturday. It was a lovely afternoon, a rare opportunity to catch up with friends and chat in our COVID world, as well as to see some new faces. Thanks also to Abbot Geoffrey for the induction service last Sunday, at which he highlighted the uniqueness of our Benedictine parish, and our need to work with and support Fr Hugh.

Farewell

At this Sunday's Mass we make a formal farewell to Fr Boniface as he prepares to head back to home base with the monastic community at Douai Abbey. As we do we give thanks to God for his years of service to us, and wish him well in his future ministry at Douai. The parish will present him with a farewell gift as a token of thanks to him. Please do come to the coffee and nibbles in the presbytery garden after Mass.

Welcome

After Mass this Sunday Fr Hugh will baptise Isaac Harnick. Let us welcome him into the Church, and keep him and his family in our prayers. We look forward to seeing more of him at St Elizabeth's.

Finance Committee

Fr Hugh has begun the process of appointing members to the parish's finance committee. With pressing work to do in the presbytery to make up for 20 years of postponed maintenance, stemming in the main from the absence of a resident priest, as well as plans for a new parish meeting room to pursue it will hit the ground running. In canon law the finance committee is to "assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish."

Service in the Parish

A small start has been made on resuming the ministry of reader at Mass. We received a good number of offers to undertake this ministry. The ministry of taking the Lord's Body after Sunday Mass to those unable to be present with us, through illness or infirmity, has already resumed and is running very well. Numbers to be visited have grown so much that Fr Hugh is unable to make all these visits himself. He will visit each person himself in turn on a regular basis. In the next few weeks there will be training days for readers and eucharistic visitors to ensure we work to a common standard and to best practice. Thank you to all who volunteered, including those whom we will ask to serve the parish in other important ways.

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 significant damp, so a main priority is repairing walls and floors, as well as fitting out a parlour for interviews and small meetings, and making up a proper guest room. Unhelpful or unnecessary furniture is being given away where possible, often to people of limited financial means, including nurses and young families. Thanks to all those who have been

Harvest Festival

As noted before, Harvest Festival is on Sunday, 26 September. As is our custom, our farming parishioners will be presenting some of their produce in thanksgiving to God. Everyone else is asked to contribute with non-perishable food which we can distribute to those in need. The Friday before Harvest Festival Fr Hugh will lead a harvest service in the

 /  GET IN TOUCH

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