



# St Elizabeth's Catholic Church Scarisbrick

*A Mission of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust*

(Registered Charity N<sup>o</sup> 1063237)

*Within the Archdiocese of Liverpool*

*Parish Priest: Fr Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB*

— 26 SEPTEMBER 2021 —  
SUNDAY OF WEEK 26 *Per Annum* (B)

SATURDAY 25/9 6.30PM	MASS (VIGIL)	† Frank Porter <i>Confessions at 6 pm</i>
SUNDAY 26/9 9.30AM	MASS	† Maureen Fletcher
MONDAY 27/9 9.30AM	NO MASS	<i>(Fr Hugh away giving a retreat, and</i>
WEDNESDAY 28/9 9.30AM	NO MASS	<i>on Abbey business, until Thursday</i> <i>7<sup>th</sup> October)</i>
THURSDAY 29/9 7.00PM	NO MASS	
FRIDAY 1/10 9.30AM	NO MASS	
SATURDAY 2/10 6.30PM	MASS (VIGIL)	† Horace & Margaret Staniforth <i>No Confessions this week</i>
SUNDAY 3/10 9.30AM	MASS	† Frank Porter

## From the Pastor's Desk

ONE NEED ONLY LOOK at some of the photos of Harvest-tide in years—indeed decades—past to realise immediately how important a festival the harvest has been for the people of Scarisbrick, and our parish in particular. The stunning displays of produce that adorned the entirety of the church, the result of significant creative effort, were a testimony of the centrality of farming and agriculture to the life of the village and its hamlets for so many centuries.

Even though suburbia has reached us, and the population is more mobile and much less involved in farming today, still agriculture is an important part of our identity today, not just historically. Farming technology has improved and methods have developed, yet it remains hard, tiring and often dirty work (the happy dirt of the soil of the earth).

As a result of the number of active parishioners decreasing over recent years, as well as the reduction of farmers as a proportion of the congregation, Harvest Sunday has taken on more modest proportions. At the same time, it is finding a new focus: the feeding of those who do not have enough to eat. Despite our other struggles, we generally have enough to eat, and our food gets to us without little effort on our part. But even in Britain, not least the North West, there are people who struggle to put food on the family table. With a sharp rise in energy costs already evident, as well as imminent reductions in some welfare payments soon to happen, many will find it even harder to feed families and pay bills. The Church has always recognised that it is hard for people to think of God, let alone praise Him, while their bellies rumble with hunger.

So today Harvest Mass focuses on two things: thanksgiving to God for the fruits of the earth and the labours of our farmers, who are still integral to our village and parish; and the need to feed the many who hunger around the world, but also in our own nation. So along with fresh produce from the farms, non-perishable food that can be shared easily with local families in need make up our offerings at Harvest Mass. This means that all of us, not just the farmers, can contribute to the feeding of the hungry, beginning in our own neighbourhood. That is a Christian duty, but even more, a Christian privilege.

*Fr Hugh*

## » Office Hours «

Please note that for the next ten weeks Mary will be in the parish office from after morning Mass on **Wednesdays** and Fridays, until 12.30pm, due to a course commitment which conflicts with Monday morning's office hours.

## Retiring Collection – Cafod Harvest Family Fast Day

### Fr Boniface has written:

“Many thanks to the kind parishioners of St Elizabeth’s. The celebration and Mass were lovely and I am most touched and grateful for the very generous cheque. I have much loved my work at St Elizabeth’s and I wish you all every blessing for the future.”

### The sick and others needing prayer



Jim Charnock, Sarah Gibbons, Stuart C, Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Winnie Church, Eva Molyneux, Joan Fawson and those facing major surgery in the week ahead.

### Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)



Charlie Simpson, Josephine Cass

**Thank You**

Thank you for your support for the Harvest Mass. Parcels will be made up for families in need and the remainder given to the local food bank.

### Harvest Festival—Coffee & Chat

Please join us in the garden for a coffee and chat after Mass today.

### Improvements & Repairs

We are continuing to move forward. The diocesan surveyor has visited, confirming all the windows need to be replaced. Because we are in a conservation area this has to be ‘like for like’ so we are sourcing quotes for wooden windows. The presbytery needs some outside pointing to correct the serious damp problem and we are hoping to insulate the loft and cellar to reduce heating costs. Wherever possible we are using local businesses.

As you can imagine it is a busy time. Father has appointed the Finance & Pastoral Councils which will meet shortly. A few other things such as reading rotas and SVP are taking a little longer. Please bear with us.



## GET IN TOUCH

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