



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 DECEMBER 2021 — SUNDAY 3 OF ADVENT (C)

SATURDAY 11/12 6.30PM	MASS (Vigil)	† John Corcoran <i>Confessions at 6pm</i>
SUNDAY 12/12 9.30AM	MASS	† Sharon Halsall
MONDAY 13/12 9.30AM	MASS	Special Intention (PC)
WEDNESDAY 15/12 9.30AM	MASS	<i>No Mass Today</i>
THURSDAY 16/12 7PM	MASS	Special Intention (KT) <i>Confessions at 6pm</i>
FRIDAY 17/12 9.30AM	MASS	† Mary McKeon
SATURDAY 18/12 6.30PM	MASS (Vigil)	Benefactors <i>Confessions at 6pm</i>
SUNDAY 19/12 9.30AM	MASS	† George Charnock

From the Pastor's Desk

GAUDETE! This is the name commonly given to the third Sunday of Advent, and it comes from the first word of the Latin entrance antiphon for this day, a word that means *rejoice*. While it looks like Christmas will be more normal than last year, for many there is not a great deal more about which to rejoice. We have a number of anniversaries this time of year, especially for recent deaths. Over the Covid period we have had more deaths than normal, and for the families and friends of these people, death is yet to lose its sting. Nevertheless, scripture reminds us that even in the worst of times we should not lose contact with the joy that comes from the faith that God keeps his promises. Easy to say; not so easily done, perhaps. Faith also knows that God will help us to do it, if we would but ask him and trust him, even if it might be according to God's timeframe, rather than ours.

The use of a rose candle today and, where the church has them, rose vestments, comes from the fact that the third Sunday marks roughly the half-way point of Advent. Advent was originally a more penitential season, like Lent. It is likely that in the Church it became customary to relax the penances people usually took on and so remind themselves of the joyful day towards which their self-discipline was directed. Penance was watered down, we might say. That watering down is reflected in the use of the colour rose, which is a sort of watered-down version of purple, the colour of penance. Rose is a happy, warm and positive colour, and so symbolises well the attitude we are called to foster today.

Annoyingly, we still await the completion of the boiler repairs. It is a saga that is trying my nerves to their limit, and also my patience with the engineers. More importantly, it is trying our bodies as well. The downside of beautiful stone churches like St Elizabeth's is that they are cold. Yet we should not lose heart. There is no spell of rain and chill that is not followed by sunshine, though northern England's spells can be brief.

Still, when the sun does come after long winter rains, how much the lovelier it feels to us. Likewise, it is with Christ, whose coming at the last for his faithful will herald an endless summer that will end the darkness and chill of this world. Until then, he will not fail to send us moments of rose among the purple, to nourish our hope and revive our joy. Let us keep our eyes open to see those moments when they come, and so embrace them.

Gaudéte in Dómino semper: iterum dico, gaudéte. Dóminus enim prope est.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. For the Lord is near.

Fr Hugh

The sick and others needing prayer

Jim Charnock, Sarah Gibbons, Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Philip & Eva Molyneux, Joan Fawson, and others we might know.

A number of parishioners or relatives of parishioners are facing considerable medical challenges at present. You may well know this but it bears repeating so that we can ensure we keep them in our prayers this Advent.

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

Agnes Branwood, Marie Smith.

Requiescat in pace

Last Thursday Stuart Collier passed away after a long battle with cancer. Family members were with him at the end. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

Wedding

On Saturday, 11 December, Sarah Gibbons and Daniel Sumner were married in the church. Please for them, their marriage and their family.

Final Call: Reception Class Places at St Mary's for September 2022

Please be aware that the date for admission forms to be sent to Lancashire School Admissions is 15 January. If you are considering a place for your child here at St Mary's, please contact the office to arrange a tour of the school. Admission forms can be found online at: School admissions—Lancashire County Council. If you have any questions just drop in at the school.

St Mary's School Holiday Nursery Provision

In 2022 St Mary's plan to extend their Early Years and Nursery provision to include a childcare option during school holidays. Please pass this information on to family and friends who may be interested and ask them to contact school.

Printer Cartridges

If you have a printer at home, please bring your used printer cartridges to church where we will have a collection box for them, probably in the porch. There is a firm that will make a donation to the parish for each cartridge returned.

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards are still available at the back of church.

Parish Choir

A reminder that there is room for more members of the choir, and more members are warmly encouraged. The choir is currently preparing for Christmas. If you would like to join the choir, please see Kath Wilson or Bernie Halsall for more information, or enquire at the parish office.

—Christmas Masses—

On Christmas Eve there will be carols at 6.30pm, followed by Mass at 7pm. The Mass on Christmas morning will be at the usual time of 9.30am.



GET IN TOUCH

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