



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

— 9 JANUARY 2022 — THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (C)

SATURDAY 8/I 6.30PM	MASS (Vigil)	Special Intention (JC) <i>Confessions at 6pm</i>
SUNDAY 9/I 9.30AM	MASS	† George & Margaret Wright
MONDAY 10/I 9.30AM	MASS	Private Intention (JC)
WEDNESDAY 12/I 9.30AM	MASS	† Michael Fogarty
THURSDAY 13/I 7PM	NO MASS	† Stella Chapell
FRIDAY 14/I 9.30AM	MASS	Mike Hedley
SATURDAY 15/I 6.30PM	MASS (Vigil)	Benefactors <i>Confessions at 6pm</i>
SUNDAY 16/I 9.30AM	MASS	† John, Connie & Mark Houghton

From the Pastor's Desk

THE BEST LAID PLANS... Or, to adopt another old saying: man proposes, God disposes. After a very positive Christmas celebration I planned to head down to the monastery at Douai to spend five days having a rest away from the renovation mess in the presbytery. Within two days of my arrival down there three monks had tested positive for Covid; two days later two more monks tested positive. With five monks in isolation the monastery went into lockdown and Test & Trace told me to do daily tests till Epiphany. Remaining negative till then, I dashed back on the great feast itself. Thankfully Fr Barry was able to step in to cover the Masses at such short notice. Still Covid dominates our lives.

On the upside I was able to catch up on rest, as I had become a little rundown before Christmas, and my enforced stay at Douai allowed me to get some needed reading done. The change in the monastery since I moved up north was very noticeable: three deaths, an ageing community, the constraints imposed by Covid—all left their mark. That said, the atmosphere was quite positive if subdued. 2022 will be a busy year for the community of Douai, with an ongoing discernment process leading up to an abbatial election in May. If we elect a new abbot (and Abbot Geoffrey has been abbot 24 years now, and may well like a break) then the new man might have his own ideas of what the monastery must do and how we must do it.

The feast of the Baptism of our Lord marks a new stage in the unfolding of God's plan for his Son in his earthly mission. While St John the Baptist was giving a ritual washing as a symbol of repentance (and our Lord had nothing to repent of, but wanted to show his solidarity with the people he had come to save), the visible coming of the Holy Spirit on our Lord signalled above all that Jesus had come from the Father to do God's work in a way no one else had done before. At the same time, it was the unveiling, as it were, of the first sacrament of the Church that would be born after Jesus' resurrection. The waters of John's baptism did not make Jesus holy; Jesus made the waters holy, and sacramentally the water of our own Baptism is the water of the River Jordan made holy by Christ. Spiritually and sacramentally every Baptism in church—yours and mine—is in that water of the Jordan made holy by Jesus' own ritual washing at the hands of John the Baptist.

John's preaching was the fundamental message of the Gospel: repent, for the Kingdom of God is coming. Our Baptism is a second birth in grace, and gives us the mission to live as Christ taught us to live: to love God above all things, and our neighbour for God's sake. A good new year's resolution? Happy New Year!

Fr Hugh

The sick and others needing prayer

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

Please do let the parish office know of anyone known to you who is ill, in the parish or not, so that we can pray for them.

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

Frederick Hook, Sarah Darnell, Eileen Hilton, John Moorcroft

St Mary's School Holiday Nursery Provision

This year St Mary's plan to extend their Early Years & 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

Thank you for putting your cartridges in the box is now in the porch. Please let friends and relations know we are collecting them.

Tablet Blister Pack Recycling

The scheme, run by TerraCycle which specialises in recycling hard-to-recycle materials, was launched initially in September 2020 to enable households to recycle their used medicine blister packets from any manufacturer through a network of independent pharmacies. At the beginning of January 2021, all Superdrug pharmacies were added to the programme.

Medicine blister packets are a mix of materials that are difficult to recycle and not yet recycled by local councils. We will put a box in the porch to collect them to allow for their responsible recycling. Please only put in *empty* blister packs; dispose of any remaining tablets beforehand.

Parish Choir

Can you sing? Would you like to help enhance the celebration of Mass in the parish by joining the parish choir? There is for more members of the choir. The choir is currently preparing for Advent and, of course, 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.



GET IN TOUCH

Fr Hugh: St Elizabeth's Presbytery, 10 Hall Road, Scarisbrick, L40 9QE

Tel: 01704 880 226

Email: frhughpp@pm.me

Administrator: Mary Ormsby → *Office email:* scarisbrickcatholic@outlook.com

Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday, 10am to 12.30pm.

Safeguarding: Les Rippon → *Email:* les.rippon@outlook.com

Website: www.stelizabeths-scarisbrick.org.uk