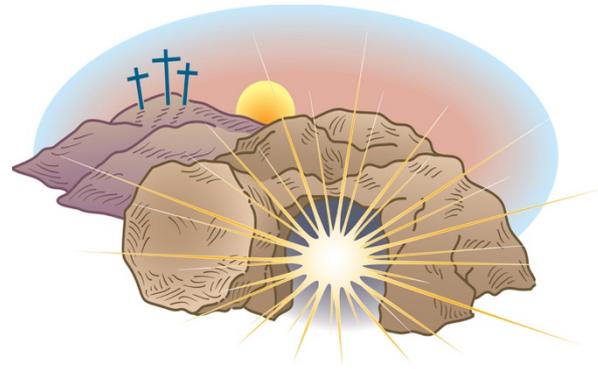


St Elizabeth's Catholic Church Scarisbrick

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



— 17 APRIL 2022 —
EASTER SUNDAY

Saturday 16/4 8.00pm	Easter Vigil Mass	Private Intention
Sunday 17/4 9.30am	Easter Day Mass	Private Intention
Wednesday 20/4 9.30am	Mass	†Charlie & Helen Simpson
Thursday 21/4 7pm	Mass	† Jim Charnock
Friday 22/4 9.30am	Mass	† Horace & Margaret Staniforth
Saturday 23/4 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	†Maurice Appleton
Sunday 24/4 9.30am	Mass	Deceased members of the Horner family

From the Pastor's Desk

IT DOESN'T RAIN BUT IT POURS! That was certainly the experience of Sydneysiders in the weeks before I arrived there and after I left last week. Indeed, some evenings while I was in the city there were some torrential downpours. In fact, in the first three months of 2022 Sydney had already exceeded its average annual rainfall. Floods have replaced droughts as the main source of worry.

For many of us life can have moments when it seems ever to be pouring with rain. Covid has endured a painfully long time, and just when we seemed to be getting to the point of being able to live with it, Putin invaded Ukraine turning the world order upside down. Prices are going up, and thus inflation too. The arrival of energy bills is for many a moment to be dreaded, and filling up the car's tank is a depressing affair.

All this on top of our own personal trials and struggles.

Easter has many meanings for the Christian. One of them is most certainly that our trials and tribulations, our sufferings and burdens, are temporary. But even more importantly, Easter reveals them to be our way of sharing in the Cross of Christ, who suffered and died for his people so that our suffering and death might not be permanent, and in fact be stages of progress in our journey through this world to the Promised Land of heaven. Christ made it a commandment: we should take up our crosses if we are to be his disciples. Our sufferings and eventual death bring us to our own calvary, but if we accept them as the way of following Christ they will bring us also to our own Easter Day, when we will rise to live with Christ eternally, in a world no longer scarred by suffering and death.

Lent is our annual reminder that there is no cheap grace, and that faith must be proved in good works and patient endurance. Easter reminds us that good works and patient endurance will have their reward. As we journey with our burdens through this life we have the sacraments of the Church to strengthen us; and the love of God experienced in and through the love of family and friends, and even the occasional stranger, to lighten our darkness and make easier our burdens.

Where Christ has gone before, his people are called to follow, along the narrow way through an unbelieving world, that will certainly end in the eternal Promised Land, if we have faith and persevere in living out our faith. There is no other way. But it is not as hard as might think. Let us pray this coming week that the joy of the Resurrection will give us true joy both this week, and through every week we tread this earth. HAPPY EASTER!

Fr Hugh

The sick and others needing prayer

Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Philip & Eva Molyneux, Joan Fawson, Stephen Parkinson, Tess Mills

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

Connie Houghton, Irene Young, Robert Burrows

First Holy Communion Programme

The next session will be next Sunday after the 9.30am Mass.

Ukraine Appeal Update

At the back of the church is a letter of thanks from Aid to the Church in Need for the parish's donation to their appeal to help the people of Ukraine. The parish donation of £3,000 (£1,500 from parishioners, and matched £ for £ from the parish account) was a handsome one indeed for a small parish such as ours, and was one of the first received by ACN. Thank you, all donors, both great and small. Ukraine continues to need our fervent prayers that its people might quickly be granted a just and lasting peace.

Douai Abbey Update

On 10 May the first stage of the abbatial election at Douai will begin, and all Douai's monks must be present for it. It is called the Tractatus, which is a process of nominating candidates for election as abbot. The next day, after a sung Mass of the Holy Spirit, the Abbot President will oversee the election itself, which is very formal and conducted by secret ballot. It normally takes more than one round of balloting for the community's choice to settle on one monk. Once elected, the new abbot is taken in the abbey church where his election is formally announced and he is taken to the abbot's throne at which he receives the obeisance of each monk individually. From that moment he is abbot, though his blessing as abbot by the bishop will take place a few weeks later. Since Abbot Geoffrey has announced his intention to retire after 24 years as abbot, the election will inevitably produce a new abbot. He will then determine if and when monks need to move and/or change jobs. The community has been preparing for the election with monthly meetings in small groups as part of a more deliberate and involved discernment process. Please pray that the community will listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Signs of Life

Apart from the children preparing for First Holy Communion, we also have more little ones being prepared for Baptism and some not so little ones preparing for marriage. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thanks

This Easter, Fr Hugh would like to make clear as possible his thanks to all who help the parish wheels to go round. In the office, in the grounds, in the church and sacristy, preparing candidates for the various sacraments, serving in the liturgical ministries of music and reading, helping in little emergencies and crises as they occur—we are blessed with generous people who help Fr Hugh keep things in good order here.

Thanks, also, to all those who are faithful to the Christian duty to support the parish financially. We are in good shape, but there are things that must soon be done so that the parish can move forward into the future with hope. Some extra generosity will be sought when those moments arrive!

Fr Hugh would like to thank, of course, those who have been generous to him personally in various ways. They have helped keep his spirits up when his plate was full to overflowing.

Lastly, thanks to all our parishioners for being faithful in coming to St Elizabeth's to worship God together. We are small but we have weathered Covid better than many, perhaps most, other parishes. Let us not rest on our laurels. Fr Hugh would like to challenge all parishioners to ask a friend or family member who has fallen away from the life of the Church, or even is not Catholic at all, to come with them to Mass here one Sunday. They have nothing to lose, and everything to gain!



Get in touch

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