



# 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*

— 1 MAY 2022 —  
**SUNDAY 3 OF EASTER**

Saturday 30/4 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	† Joe Lewis <i>Confessions at 6pm</i>
Sunday 1/5 9.30am	Mass	† Josie Prescott
Wednesday 4/5 9.30am	Mass	† Joe & Peggy Vose
Thursday 5/5 7.00pm	Mass	† Joe Lewis <i>Confessions &amp; Rosary at 6.30pm</i>
Friday 6/5 9.30am	Mass	† Audrey Mitchell
Saturday 7/5 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	Special Intention (Edward)
Sunday 8/5 9.30am	Mass	† Christopher McLoughlin, Elizabeth Reavey & Adrian Mott

## From the Pastor's Desk

**I**N THE READINGS AT MASS TODAY the focus is very much on the Church, especially its role and mission in the world. Two principal tasks for the Church are highlighted: to preach the truth of Christ to all the world, even (indeed, especially) if the world rejects it; and to nourish the faith and spiritual lives of Christians with the truth and the sacraments. Should the Church ever cease to do these two principal tasks then she will be failing both Christ and his people. In a world hostile to Christianity, and to the Church in particular, that is a tough task. For ordinary Christians, merely living a faithful Christian life is a greater challenge than ever.

This is why it is more important than ever that the Church remains committed in word and deed to the Faith handed on by the apostles from Christ. The Church in Australia is currently on its own synodal process, called the Plenary Assembly (a term more accurate than “synod”). This, alas, has become a forum for those who want the Church to become more like the world, rather than the world to be converted by the Church. Archbishop Porteous of Hobart has sounded a particular warning. His warning has no less relevance to the Church in England. In the Plenary Assembly’s latest working paper, the archbishop senses “a Church that has lost confidence in itself; a Church that has lost confidence in its identity and mission.” Furthermore, “...there is a lack of confidence in what we as Catholics have to offer our society as it loses its sense of God and abandons Christian virtue...One senses in this document a Church that has become tired and has lost its sense of purpose; a Church that has surrendered to the surrounding cultural ethos...Those churches that align themselves to the spirit of the age offer no attraction to the people of the age. Why join something that is just like everything else? It is those churches which have boldly proclaimed the kerygma [gospel] and have been prepared to stand by those Christian tenets which challenge the culture that are flourishing...The Church has one task—to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the way to salvation. The mission of the Church is to enable people to encounter Christ in such a way that they open their hearts and lives fully to him.”

Archbishop Porteous’ warning raises questions that are relevant to the Church in Britain and Europe, but also to individual Catholics: how important is my faith to me? Do I truly believe it, or only those bits that make for a comfortable life? Is my faith equalled by my conviction in it? Do I have the courage of my convictions? What do I give back to the Church, even as I take from her? Easter is the season of faith. Let us pray for a faith that is bold and true in our word and in our actions.

*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)**

Philip Halsall, Margaret Moss

## **Parish Visitor**

On Monday and Tuesday last week the parish was delighted to welcome to Scarisbrick Nicolas de Castéja, the great-great-great grandson of the last marquis, Andre. He came specifically to see both the church and Scarisbrick Hall, and was amazed and delighted by what he discovered. He is from the branch of the family that settled in Brazil and had little knowledge of his family's history here. Many thanks to Charles Marshall for showing him round the mere and arranging access to the Marchioness's Bridge.

## **Pray in May for Mary's Meals**

In this month dedicated to Our Lady we are invited to join in praying for the work of Mary's Meals, a mission carried out in Our Lady's name to feed children a daily school meal in some of the world's poorest communities. This meal brings children into the classroom, where they can receive an education, offering hope for a better future. Their work began with prayer, and prayer has sustained our rapid growth—from feeding 200 children in 2002 to feeding over 2.2 million children today. Please join them in prayer by saying a Hail Mary.

## **Clean Pews**

Lately, quite a lot of material is being left in pews after Masses and other events in the church: hymn books, bulletins, Mass books, and occasionally even rubbish. The church is not cleaned every week, so it would be a great help if everyone could take everything with them from their places as they leave church, so that we can keep the church looking neat and tidy.

## **Heating and Expenses**

With this dry spell of sunny, though not altogether warm, weather the heating in church has been turned off. With the rising cost of gas and utilities in general it is prudent to minimise our expenses where we can. You may be surprised to know that our weekly collection does not cover the parish's expenses. Funerals, weddings, and baptisms help but we are reliant on the safety net provided by the proceeds of the sale of the old school, the last remaining parish asset that could be sold. Much of the proceeds, which did not total as much as you might

think, have now been invested in the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust's portfolio with Rathbones, in order to grow our capital with an eye to the future, as well as provide another source of income year on year.

So please consider setting up a standing order with your bank that could replace your contribution to the weekly Mass collection. Banking cash and cheques now attracts bank fees as of last November. Standing orders and bank transfers are free of fees. This means that your entire donation is received by the parish; with cash and cheques your donation attracts a fee from the bank and thus reduces what the parish receives. Mary in the office can help you if you would like to set up a standing order with your bank that benefits the parish. Thank you to all who do contribute regularly to the maintenance of the parish. Without you the parish would not survive.

### **Bring a Friend**

Please do try to invite a friend or family member to Mass, who perhaps has lapsed from the life of the Church or indeed has never been a member of the Church. They can lose nothing by coming, and stand to gain so much. Remind them that at Communion time, they can fold their arms across their chest and receive a blessing. There are no qualifications to receive a blessing other than the desire to receive one!



### *Get in touch*

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