



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

— 29 MAY 2022 —

SUNDAY 7 OF EASTER

(Second Collection for World Communications)

Saturday 28/5 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	† Stuart Collier
Sunday 29/5 9.30am	Mass	† Stephen Margerison
Wednesday 1/6 9.30am	<i>No Mass</i>	
Thursday 2/6 6.30pm	Mass	† Jim Charnock <i>Confessions & Rosary at 6pm</i>
Friday 3/6 9.30am	Mass	† George & Margaret Wright
Saturday 4/6 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil of Pentecost)	† Jean Olverson
Sunday 5/6 9.30am	Mass of Pentecost	Her Majesty the Queen

From the Pastor's Desk

IN THESE DAYS BETWEEN the feast of the Lord's Ascension and the feast of Pentecost which empowered the Church to act and speak for Christ, the readings at Mass will guide our attention to the nature of life for the disciples of Christ as they await his Second Coming in glory, which will make the end of this world and the beginning of the new, and eternal, creation. The climax of the divine, and human, drama has begun but it is not yet completed, so we are in a sort of state of suspense. But we are not to be frozen in suspense. There are things to do, and consequences to accept in faith and hope.

So today we see in the stoning of St Stephen, the first martyr after Christ's resurrection, the Church making clear that discipleship means carrying the Cross with Christ, sometimes even to the point of martyrdom for some. Persecution is one of the major threats to the unity of Christians, many of whom have fallen and will fall to the temptation to deny their faith in order to avoid the Cross. Their failure weakens the preaching of the Gospel; non-Christians will conclude that if Christians can give up their faith when the going gets tough then Christian faith must not be worth much, if anything.

There is another thread of meaning in the readings that is relevant to this problem, and which we may have missed. The Church, and Christian faith, are focused not on this world, but the next. Stephen as he dies sees a vision of heaven to which he is being called as he keeps faith with Christ even to death. In the second reading St John concludes the record of his great vision of world history and its ending, with a reminder that Christians who have washed their robes clean in the blood of the Lamb, through Baptism and perseverance in faith, will have the right to eat again of the tree of (eternal) life, and so our prayer is always first and foremost not, "Lord give us a good life in this world" but "Come Lord and bring us into the new, eternal and perfect world of your kingdom."

This world and our lives in it are important, but they are not the reason for our existence. We were made for God, to live with him. Because of sin we are in exile in the desert, and life now is a pilgrimage home to the Land for which we were made, and of which Baptism makes us citizens. The pilgrimage of the Hebrews through the desert from Egypt to the Promised Land in Israel, under the leadership of Moses, is a model for the Church and for Christians. Times of hardship come, but also times of joy when God showers blessings down from heaven, and all the more when the people remain faithful in adversity. When they fell away, they brought on themselves the consequences of their disastrous choices. Let us resolve instead to persevere in faith and so inherit the joy of God's eternal kingdom.

Fr Hugh

The sick and others needing prayer

Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Philip & Eva Molyneux, Joan Fawson, Ronnie Charnock, Tess Mills, Jean Olverson.

Please let the Parish Office know if any who cannot come to Mass would like Holy Communion at home, or a visit from Fr Hugh.

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

Vincent Jones, Jean Olverson, Justin Hunter

Mass Obligation Restored

As noted last week, from Pentecost Sunday, 5 June, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and the specified Holy Days is being restored by the bishops of England and Wales. It was suspended in March 2020 with the first Covid lockdown. In most places in the world the obligation has been restored already. Live-streamed Masses on the internet do *not* fulfil the obligation as Mass attendance is inescapably physical not virtual. Mass on the internet is still a help to those who are housebound, ill or seriously infirm, but for those who do not fall into these categories it is no longer enough. Attendance at Mass is, of course, a happy duty for those who have faith. If any of us find Mass a burden perhaps the problem is not with the Mass but with ourselves!

Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee

Next weekend, apart from including Pentecost Sunday, is the long weekend to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign over the United Kingdom as many other countries, including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. There are two days of bank holiday to celebrate, which means the jubilee weekend begins on Thursday, 2 June. The Mass on Pentecost will be offered for the intention of Her Majesty. Her 70 years on the throne have been a rock of stability and good sense in a period of rapid change, turmoil and, sadly in many aspects, decay in our society and the world. We have much to give thanks for in her reign, now the longest of any English or British monarch. At the end of Pentecost Sunday Mass we will sing the national anthem, which is, of course, a hymn.

St Mary's School 150th Anniversary Procession

On Wednesday 13 July at 2.00 pm there will be an end of term Mass for St Marys school at 2.00pm. The school will be having a Procession round the school and church grounds, before the Mass, to celebrate the 150 years of St Mary's, followed by a picnic in the presbytery garden. Parishioners are very welcome to attend the Mass and Procession.

Two Cathedrals Pentecost and Jubilee Celebration

On Pentecost Sunday the Catholic and Anglican cathedrals in Liverpool will hold a joint ecumenical celebration to honour Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The celebrations begin at 3pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral and will move to the Anglican cathedral for an act of worship before a Big Picnic inside the cathedral. You can find more details on the *Upcoming Events* page at <https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/>

Bring a Friend

Especially now that the obligation to attend Mass is to be restored, please 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

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