



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

— 22 MAY 2022 —

SUNDAY 6 OF EASTER

Saturday 21/5 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	† Rebecca Ann Brown <i>Confessions at 6pm</i>
Sunday 22/5 9.30am <i>11.00am</i>	Mass <i>Baptism</i>	† George Ackers <i>Kacper Lipinski</i>
Wednesday 25/5	No Mass	
Thursday 26/5 6.30pm	Ascension Day Mass	† Jim Charnock
Friday 27/5 9.30am	Mass	† Holy Souls
Saturday 28/5 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	† Stuart Collier
Sunday 29/5 9.30am	Mass	† Stephen Margerison

From the Pastor's Desk

THIS COMING THURSDAY IS ASCENSION DAY. Normally it is a Holy Day of Obligation but the bishops suspended the obligation in March 2020 when the lockdown was introduced for the pandemic. On Pentecost Sunday the obligation will be reinstated. This causes even the clergy some pause for thought. On the one hand, it is clear that to be a Catholic it is not possible to go solo. Christians are children of God as part of the Body of Christ, the Church. Christ's preparations before he returned in his personal body to the Father make it clear that expects Christians to be together: love one another, bear fruit that will last, go out and proclaim the good news, do this in memory of me. So it is logical as well as necessary that Christians gather on Sunday to worship God as the Church and to celebrate the Eucharist "in memory of me."

On the other hand, many clergy would concede that it is far from ideal to oblige people to come to Mass who do not *want* to come to Mass. On a more pragmatic level, such people usually contribute little in prayer or spirit, and often can unsettle others. On a deeper level, their problem is one of faith, and if it is anything Sunday Mass is the gathering of those who have faith.

That said, perhaps we have all experienced a time when we were obliged to do something we did not want to do, only later to be grateful that we did. Most of us as children, or teenagers anyway, probably found school a hassle and imposition on our time; we would have preferred to spend it more happily wasting it! But surely most of us are now grateful for the education we were given, that allowed us to make choices in our later lives. Literacy and numeracy alone justify all those uncool years at school.

So soon all those who have been staying away from Sunday Mass and Holy Days are being required to return. Coming to join the local Church in worship of God every Sunday is a happy duty that turns our often glib words of faith into action. If we are not "feeling" it then perhaps it is a phase we need to ride through with our teeth gritted until we get through it and find ourselves glad we did not slip away from the life of faith with the Church. An hour a week is not the biggest demand faith makes of us; in fact, it is probably the smallest. Some words of our Lord in Matthew 25 or Luke 16: Since you have been faithful in a small thing, you will be entrusted with greater. A little healthy discipline now will bring a rich reward. We will not be judged on our feelings but our deeds.

See you all at Mass!

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 anyone who cannot come to church would like Holy Communion at home or a visit from Fr Hugh.

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

Rebecca Ann Brown, Michael Branwood, Joan Riozzi

First Holy Communion Preparation

There is a session after Mass today. Please pray for Sienna, Sam, Alex, Niamh, Harriet, Marco, Esme, Evan, Imogen and Shaun who will be making their First Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 19 June.

Ascension Thursday & Sunday Obligation

Thursday this week is the Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension. Normally this would be a Holy Day of Obligation but the normal obligations to attend Mass were suspended by the bishops during the pandemic. Thus, there will be only one Mass for the Ascension, an evening Mass as usual for Thursdays, but at 6.30pm, not the usual 7pm. This means there will be no public rosary before Mass.

Please note that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and the specified Holy Days will be restored on the Solemnity of Pentecost, Sunday 5 June. Unless ill or infirm, all Catholics must now return to Mass on Sundays and the specified holy days.

St Mary's School History

St Mary's School celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. Mary Ormsby is writing a school history and would like to determine levels of interest before printing.

The booklet will be A5, black and white with a colour cover and approximately 120 pages. There will be some full school photos where these can be found. The information has mainly come from the school archives, but it also includes personal memories from former pupils and a section on the links with the parish.

The target price is £5 per copy, which will cover costs. The parish council has provided a small grant, but to cover all printing costs 100 copies would need to be sold. The publication date is 8 December, the Immaculate Conception. Please can you let Mary know if you would be prepared to buy a copy.

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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!

Other Churches' Envelopes

It is wonderful when we have visitors from other parishes at Mass, and they are always very welcome. But lately there have been Gift Aid envelopes in the collection bags for other parishes. Please do *not* put other churches' envelopes in our collection. We do not have a service that transfers them across. Please drop them in at the relevant parish yourself. It is customary when visiting another church to give to its collection, not put in money for another church. Collections go towards keeping our church open and running, and we rely on the congregation to support the parish in this endeavour. No offering is too small if given with love.



Get in touch

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