



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

— 8 MAY 2022 —

SUNDAY 4 OF EASTER

— 8 MAY 2022 —		
SUNDAY 4 OF EASTER		
Saturday 7/5 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	Special Intention (Edward) <i>Confessions at 6.00pm</i>
Sunday 8/5 9.30am	Mass	† Christopher McLoughlin, Elizabeth Reavey & Adrian Mott
Monday 9/5 6.00 pm	First Confessions	
Wednesday 11/5	No Mass	
Thursday 12/5	No Mass	<i>Fr Hugh at Douai for the abbatial election.</i>
Friday 13/5	No Mass	
Saturday 14/5 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	† Mgr Thomas Aquinas O'Hare
Sunday 15/5 9.30am	Mass	† John, Connie & Mark Houghton

From the Pastor's Desk

IT IS FITTING THAT THIS SUNDAY we are presented with the image of Christ as the Good Shepherd of his flock, the Church. In the readings in Eastertide we are presented with many images of Christ that seek to illuminate one aspect or other of the identity of Christ and his work for us and our salvation. He is the Passover Lamb of sacrifice, the Light of the world, the Bread of Life, the Son of God, the Lord, the Messiah. Under the title of the Good Shepherd, Christ is presented to us as the only one who can surely and safely lead God's people through this valley of tears to the promised land of heaven. Without a shepherd, any flock will scatter and become easy prey for wolves and other predators. The flock of the Church is no different. While in our secular West we rarely face death or physical torture for our beliefs, that does not mean that there are not forces at work which seek to scatter us, and diminish us and all we believe and stand for in the name of Christ. The sanctity of human life is a prime example.

This coming week the monks will elect a new abbot; a *new* abbot for certain as Abbot Geoffrey is retiring after 24 years in office. The abbot is the shepherd of the little flock, or little church—*ecclesiola*—of the monastery. It is a heavy burden. The monks are all quite different, and that makes for an interesting life to say the least! Then there are the monastery's buildings to be maintained, guests catered for, assets to be managed, parishes to be manned and overseen, new vocations to be found...and many other aspects to the office that together make it a difficult position to fill. Abbot Geoffrey has shepherded the monastery through a difficult period with the closure and sale of the monastery school, developing new buildings to replace and improve on what we lost in selling the school, finding fulfilling work for the monks to do, and maintaining our commitment to our missions such as Scarisbrick. He has enabled Douai to be, arguably, the most stable of the English Benedictine monasteries. That is quite an achievement.

The new abbot will have no less daunting a task ahead of him as the landscape changes yet again for the monastery and for the Church in general. He will have his own priorities and insights, and no doubt he will make decisions about which monks he needs at the monastery to help him in his work. This means that, inevitably, there will be changes in which monks do what, and it will most likely mean at least a few changes on the missions, especially if the new abbot is a mission father. Anyway, next weekend we will hopefully be able to give thanks for the election of a new abbot. Pray for the monastic community as we complete the work of discernment that has occupied us this past nine months.

Fr Hugh

The sick and others needing prayer

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

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

Bernard Whitty

Pray in May for Mary's Meals

As mentioned last week, we have been invited to pray for the work of Mary's Meals in during Mary's month of May. An important aspect of their work is feeding some of the poorest children in the world a school meal, allowing them to pursue an education that will help lift them from poverty. Please say a Hail Mary for their work.

First Holy Communion Preparation

The next session is after Mass today. The children will make their First Confessions in the church tomorrow evening at 6.00pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

Abbatial Election

Fr Hugh will be with all the monks of Douai at the monastery this week to elect a new abbot on Wednesday. Please say a prayer that the best man for the office will be elected.

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!

Flowers

Would anyone like to volunteer to join the team who arrange the flowers on the altar? If so, please see Christine Charnock.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Fr Godric at Ormskirk is leading another Holy Land pilgrimage from 7 to 14 November this year. The total cost is estimated to be between £1100 and £1200, taking into account the current cost of flights from Manchester. If you are interested, there are booking forms at the back of the church in Ormskirk. Otherwise, you can call Colette at St Anne's on 01695 572168.

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