



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

— 5 JUNE 2022 —

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Saturday 4/6 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil of Pentecost)	† Jean Olverson
Sunday 5/6 9.30am	Mass of Pentecost	Her Majesty the Queen
Wednesday 8/6 9.30am	Mass	† Bill Dawber
Thursday 9/6 6.30pm	Mass	Special Intention (JC) <i>Confessions & Rosary at 6.00pm</i>
Friday 10/6 9.30am	Mass	Benefactors
Saturday 11/6 6.30pm	Mass (Vigil)	† Mary King
Sunday 12/6 9.30am	Mass	† Winnie Church

From the Pastor's Desk

THIS SUNDAY WE HAVE A DOUBLE-WHAMMY to celebrate. On the one hand we have the annual celebration of Pentecost 50 days after Easter. On the other, we have the once-in-a-lifetime—and probably what will be the only ever—celebration of 70 years of a monarch's rule as we mark the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. In the media you will almost certainly hear little, if anything, about Pentecost. However, you will be swamped with media coverage of the happy jubilee.

The reason for this disparity lies to a great degree in what I have written above: one event happens every year, the other is unique. We could also add that one is a very churchy feast while the other is something the whole nation can, and should, celebrate. Certainly, I shall be quietly celebrating Queen Elizabeth's remarkable achievement. She has remained a rock of stability and assurance, an exemplar of duty and commitment and faith, through the dizzying and shattering changes in the world throughout her 70 years on the throne, and before as well. Has the Church—not just popes, cardinals, bishops, and clergy but all the people of God—offered a comparable witness to the world? Sadly, in many respects, the answer would be in the negative. In many respects, but not all, that is.

Over recent decades we have ditched or devalued things that were once sacred in the life of the Church. Even worse, many Catholics have ditched the Church entirely. Even before Covid the congregation in the average Catholic parish (most parishes, to be frank) had declined by well over half over the last 50 years. Attending Mass has become optional for most Catholics; in practice optional usually means dispensable. Confessionals are filled with dust and cobwebs, including our own which I cleaned out a few weeks ago. The liturgy, which united and fed the faith of Catholics and secured their devotion for two millennia was now deemed boring and remote. The Church duly changed the liturgy, its language and ritual and most of its rules, and not only did this fail to win the bored ones back, even more wandered away.

But on another level, there has been the consistent presence of individuals who *do* exemplify duty and commitment and faith (as well as hope and charity), quietly in daily life, in their fidelity to Christian mystery lived in communion with the Church, the Body of Christ. They are what St Paul calls “the saints” (as opposed to the Saints we canonise after their death). They are the thread of continuity, and the vein of stability and faithful witness, that prove that the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at the first Pentecost has not been in vain, nor been lost. The gift given so spectacularly at the first Pentecost endures quietly and almost unnoticed in those individuals who are truly the Catholic *faithful*.

This Pentecost we are able to, and we must, give thanks to God for the graced perseverance of both our queen and those humble faithful who have their hearts set on God before self.

Fr Hugh

**** PLEASE DO NOT PUT ENVELOPES FOR OTHER PARISHES IN THE COLLECTION HERE. THE COLLECTION IS FOR ST ELIZABETH'S ONLY.** Envelopes for other parishes cannot be sent to those parishes. If for some reason you prefer not to give to St Elizabeth's, please deliver envelopes for other parishes directly to them. ******

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 and would like Holy Communion at home or a visit from Fr Hugh.

Anniversaries this week (within the last 10 years)

David Forshaw, John Vose, Pam Bialeck, Josephine Darragh

First Holy Communion Preparation

Please pray for Sienna, Sam, Alex, Niamh, Harriet, Marco, Esme, Imogen, Evan and Shaun who will be making their First Holy Communion here on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday 19 June.

St Mary's School 150th Anniversary Mass and Procession

On Wednesday, 13 July at 2.00 pm will be the end of term Mass for the children of St Mary's. The children will hold 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.

Volunteers' Week

This annual event in the civil calendar runs this year from 1 to 7 June. Fr Hugh would like to acknowledge and thank all those who serve the parish as volunteers, be it as readers, ushers and collectors at Mass, taking Communion to the sick and infirm, working in our grounds and buildings, in the office, as counters, arranging the flowers and cleaning the church, and preparing candidates for the sacraments. Their work oils the wheels of the parish so that things get done without stress and in good time. In this way they assist the parish priest in his work. Remember, the parish exists for your benefit and God's glory, so if you would like to volunteer in any way, please get in touch with the parish office.

Confirmation

If there are any young people in our parish who would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation this year, please let Fr Hugh know by Corpus Christi (19 June). It is envisaged that Confirmation would be conferred in November after a period of preparation either in our Catholic schools or in a programme shared with neighbouring parishes. The clergy of the deanery are in the planning stage for this so the sooner we know of any candidates, the better.

Two Cathedrals' Pentecost and Platinum Jubilee Celebration

There will be a pilgrimage walk from the Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool to the Anglican cathedral beginning at 3pm on Pentecost Sunday. With acts of worship in both places, there will be refreshments and games at the Anglican cathedral until 6pm. The event will celebrate both the great feast of the Church and the Queen's 70 years of devoted service to the nation and the Commonwealth.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!



Get in touch

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