

Rejoice

ST ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH SCARISBRICK

*A Mission of the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust
(Registered Charity № 1063237)
Within the Archdiocese of Liverpool*

Parish Priest: Fr Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB

10 MARCH 2024

SUNDAY 4 IN LENT—LAETARE SUNDAY

Saturday, 9/3 <i>2nd Collection—Nugent</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	Private Intention (JC)
Sunday, 10/3 <i>2nd Collection—Nugent</i>	Mass – 9.30am	† Mary Ashcroft
Wednesday, 13/3	<i>No Mass</i>	<i>Fr Hugh at Douai</i>
Friday, 15/3	Mass – 9.30am Stations – 10.05am	† Horace Staniforth
Saturday, 16/3	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Rose Murphy
Sunday, 17/3	Mass – 9.30am	† George & Margaret Wright
Wednesday, 20/3	Mass – 9.30am	Private Intention (JC)

From the Pastor's Desk



LET'S THINK ABOUT PINK. Well, in fact, not pink at all, but rose. Today is Laetare Sunday and, with Gaudete Sunday in Advent, is the only time priests (and deacons) may wear rose vestments at Mass. St Elizabeth's does not have a set of rose vestments, and maybe that is just as well as too many modern vestments are not rose but an inaccurate, and inappropriate, Barbie-pink. The Latin name for the proper liturgical colour is *rosacea*, literally "rose-like," and this is a deeper, richer colour than hot pink. Indeed, it is exactly like the colour of the dominant rose bushes in the presbytery garden.

However, let's put aside the matter of colour, and ask why there are these happy, rose Sundays in the middle of the two penitential seasons of the Church's year. A real reason, but not the original, recalls the days when Lent was a season of real penance, not our largely token, often grudging, penance today. Roughly halfway through Lent, today was a chance to remember the joy of Easter (or Christmas, on Gaudete Sunday) to which the penitential season was leading. The names come from the first words of the Latin entrance antiphons at Mass: *laetare Ierusalem*, be joyful, Jerusalem! *gaudete*, rejoice!

More precisely though, the origin lies in the ancient papal gift of the golden rose, which were made originally to Catholic women of importance or great standing. In time it was given also to shrines of Our Lady. Fashioned from solid gold, the golden roses contained tiny relics of the True Cross, and were blessed on the Fourth Sunday of Lent at the ancient Roman station church for the day, the basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (Holy Cross in Jerusalem). So rose and the fourth Sunday of Lent were thus married. It is also why Mothering Sunday is held today, a festive day when workers returned to their "mother" church, the church of their Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.

The rose is the ideal flower to symbolise the Incarnation and the Passion of Christ: fragrant and beautiful, it also has thorns, and so can remind us that there can be no resurrection without suffering and death, but also that suffering borne in faith leads to the eternal joy of the resurrection. It reminds us, too, of a teaching that we often forget: that those who want to follow Christ must take up their cross to do so (Matt 16:24).

Fr Hugh

The infirm and others needing prayer

Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Tess and Eric Mills, Jean Olverson, Paddy Mott, Joe Ackers, Anne Bradfield-Kay, *and all in need of grace.*

March anniversaries (within the last 10 years) — *Rest in peace.*

Dorothy Houghton, Edna Wright, Marie Savage, Mary Horrocks, Margaret Foster, Richard Pope, Mary Ashcroft, Sharon Halsall, Peter Forshaw

Stations of the Cross

After Mass on Fridays up to Holy Week there will be the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross in the church after Mass on Fridays. In Holy Week, on Good Friday, there will be a more solemn celebration of the Stations.

The Belle Vale Passion

At 12 noon on Holy Saturday, 30 March, at the Belle Vale Shopping Centre in Liverpool (near Woolton, L25 2RF), will be the performance of a community play commemorating the Passion of Christ. The organisers are still looking for community involvement to help with leaflet drops and with the stewarding the event. If you would like to help with leaflet drops then call Jacqui on 07864 511807. If you would like to help with stewarding the performance, please email Ron at ronaldsmith57@btinternet.com. More information about the passion play itself can be found at <https://bellevalepassion.co.uk/>.

Reminder: Lent Talk

At 7pm on Monday 11 March in the parish centre at St Anne's, Ormskirk there will be a Lent talk from theologian David McLoughlin from Birmingham entitled *Jesus' Passion for the Kingdom of God: Walking with Him to the Cross*. All are welcome.

Fatima Pilgrimage

Chris Sykes of Warrington is organising a pilgrimage to Fatima and Nazare, to take place from Sunday, 1 June to Saturday, 7 June 2024. The cost is £800 (for a shared room), flying from Manchester. For more information contact Chris Sykes 07587046985 or chrissykes2@hotmail.com.

Lenten Music at the Cathedral

The cathedral choir is offering some beautiful Lenten music in the lead up to Easter. On Sunday, 10 March is Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. On Sunday, 17 March is Tallis' *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. Both of these are at **3pm** in the cathedral. Then on Palm Sunday, 24 March at **7.30pm** is a celebration of Tenebrae, a Holy Week service lost after Vatican II. All events are free, with a voluntary retiring collection.

Church clean

The church is in need of another good clean, especially as we approach Easter, so volunteers are invited to help Fr Hugh and the regulars to clean the church on Wednesday 27 March, after morning Mass. There will be morning tea provided to keep spirits up!

Sunday Collection 2/3 March: £580.30, including £350 Gift Aided
(Previous week: £412.75, including £149.25 Gift Aided)
Second collection—Lenten Alms: £118.77

Need to get in touch?

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