



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

17 MARCH 2024

SUNDAY 5 IN LENT—PASSION SUNDAY

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	Special Intention (JC)
Friday, 22/3	Mass – 9.30am Stations – 10am	† Claire Kelly
Saturday, 23/3	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Sharon Halsall
Sunday, 24/3 <i>Palm Sunday*</i>	Mass – 9.30am	† Joe & Dorothy Houghton
Wednesday, 27/3	Mass – 9.30am	† Eva Molyneux

**Second Collection for Easter Flowers*

From the Pastor's Desk



WITH ORIGINS IN THE SIXTH CENTURY and until the reform of the liturgy after the Second Vatican Council, the Fifth Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday, and it began a sub-season of Lent called Passiontide. Palm Sunday, beginning Holy Week, was technically the Second Sunday of Passiontide. We tend to think now only of Holy Week as the period of more intense focus on the Lord's Passion, but until 1970 there were two weeks intense period of devotion and focus on the Cross: Passiontide. After 1970, Passion Sunday was assimilated into Palm Sunday and this special period of intense devotion reduced to one week: Holy Week.

Some of the practices proper to Passiontide have been diluted or made optional. Passiontide was the time when images and crosses were veiled and hidden from sight, a reflection of the gospel passage set for Passion Sunday (which was the same every year) which ended with Our Lord hiding himself from those who wanted to kill him (John 8:59)—for his 'hour' had not yet come. The cross(es) would be unveiled on Good Friday (and this is still so); the statues and other images would be unveiled for the Easter Vigil. It was also in Passiontide that there would be a communal celebration of the Stations of the Cross, though this has now been commonly extended throughout Lent.

What is important to note from old Passiontide is that it is an example of how the liturgical life of the Church and individual devotions aligned with each other. The veiled images in church reflected the inner sorrow the Church felt as it recalled the Lord's sufferings, and this visual effect encouraged individuals to recall the Passion of Christ themselves. It was a matter of priority too; all images of saints lose importance when set next to the Lord's Passion and Cross. Only the most important saints' days were marked; all the others were veiled from the liturgy. This is not the time for joy. Joy will return at Easter when the *Alleluia* is heard again after its Lenten slumber in a tomb of its own.

Curiously, the old tradition is maintained still in one place in our modern liturgy. The next two weeks have their own proper prefaces (the prayer before the 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...') of 'the Passion of Our Lord.' They are short but rich in teaching if you listen.

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

Services during the Sacred Triduum

In case you are planning your movements for the period of the Sacred Triduum, the services for those days are as follows:

Maundy Thursday, 28 March: Mass of the Lord's Supper—5.30pm

Good Friday, 29 March: Stations of the Cross with Reflections by the Venerable Fulton Sheen—10am

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion—3pm

Holy Saturday, 30 March: Easter Vigil (with sung Exultet)—7pm

Easter Sunday, 31 March: Easter Day Mass—9.30am

*NB Daylight Saving begins on Easter Sunday.

Church clean

Volunteers are still invited to help Fr Hugh and the regulars to clean the church on Wednesday of Holy Week, 27 March, after morning Mass.

Sacramental candidates—prayers

There are likely to be 19 candidates for First Holy Communion and 20 for Confirmation at St Elizabeth's on 21 July. Abbot Paul will be coming up to join us on the day to confer Confirmation, so First Holy Communions will be from his hands as well. It will be a long trip for him, but thankfully he likes visiting Scarisbrick. Also in the summer, two others will hopefully receive Confirmation. We have a couple of children being prepared for Baptism in the next few months as well. Please keep all those preparing to receive these sacraments in your prayers over the coming weeks and months.

Stole Fees and Sacramental Offerings

Like everyone else, the parish is facing increased costs, and in the case of gas for heating the church in particular, the increase has been large. Some graveyard fees have been raised slightly this year. The offering for a Mass intention remains at £10 (thank you to those who give more!). The offerings for Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation are £40. These offerings are not for profit, but instead cover the costs incurred by the parish and help maintain the priest (or cover the travel costs of the abbot in the case of Confirmations this year). They can be adjusted if people are having money troubles. Sometimes people make spontaneous donations to the parish, and they are remembered in Fr Hugh's prayers for benefactors, and at the Mass for benefactors offered several times a year.

Easter Flowers

There is some money left over from the collection for Christmas flowers, but not enough to allow for the flowers Easter deserves. So, at Mass on Palm Sunday, there will be a retiring collection to buy flowers for Easter (they are sourced at a better-than-retail price). Thank you to those who leave a little something in the collection box for flowers near the statue of Our Lady of Scarisbrick in the side aisle.

Sunday Collection: 9/10 March: £430.27, including £214 Gift Aided

(Previous week: £580.30, including £350 Gift Aided)

Second collection – Nugent Care: £169.34

Need to get in touch?

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