



# 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*

**24 MARCH 2024**

**PALM SUNDAY**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Easter Flowers)*

Saturday, 23/3	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Sharon Halsall
Palm Sunday, 24/3	Mass – 9.30am	† Joe & Dorothy Houghton
Wednesday, 27/3	Mass – 9.30am	† Eva Molyneux
Maundy Thursday, 28/3	Mass – 5.30pm	Welfare of the EBC
Good Friday, 29/3	Stations – 10am Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 3pm	<i>Collection for the Holy Places (3pm)</i>
Holy Saturday, 30/3	The Vigil – 7pm	People of the Parish
Easter Sunday, 31/3	Mass – 9.30am	† Eva Molyneux

*—No weekday Masses in Easter Week—*

## From the Pastor's Desk



PALM SUNDAY IS UPON US again, and we will all, no doubt, expect to get a piece of palm at Mass, as is customary. However, whenever priests ask for these blessed palms to be returned at the beginning of the next calendar year in order to make the ash for Ash Wednesday, only a fraction are ever returned. Which leads me to ask, why? Do people just forget? Or have last year's palms been mislaid, or even—God forbid—put in the rubbish bin? If they have gone in the bin, then we have a little problem. So, on the off chance there is a problem, we might do well to think a little about the palms of Palm Sunday.

In the ancient world, especially in the near east where they are more abundant, palm branches were used as symbols or emblems of virtue, eminence, and victory. In the Old Testament we find that when he built his great temple in Jerusalem, Solomon had carved on its walls images of angels and palm trees. In St John's great vision of heaven in the Book of Revelation, he saw the multitude of the saved standing before the throne of God robed in white and holding palm branches. So when the people of Jerusalem strew palm branches before Our Lord as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, they were paying him the honour due to a victorious king, and his entry into Jerusalem was indeed triumphant. Of course, we know that he was entering not to be enthroned in a palace but on the Cross, amid mockery and scorn, not praise. So it is appropriate that the Church uses red vestments today, as the palms of the Jerusalemites are already tainted with Christ's blood. Likewise, that we often weave them in crosses makes perfect sense.

So it is with some irony—intentional—that we remember that day by using palms ourselves to welcome, as it were, the arrival of Holy Week. The palms we receive in church are blessed—they are what the Church calls *sacramentals*; not sacraments as such, but sacred and blessed objects that signify, and help us in, our life of faith in Christ. They are *not* to be thrown in a bin! Normally we place them by a crucifix or image of Christ in our homes, in token both of our homage, and our awareness that we can be as fickle towards Jesus as were the people of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.

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**

A reminder of the precise details of liturgies of the Sacred Triduum, the most important liturgies of the Church's year:

*Maundy Thursday:* Mass of the Lord's Supper—5.30pm

*Good Friday:* Stations of the Cross with Reflections by Bishop Fulton Sheen—  
10am

Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion with Adoration of  
the Cross & Holy Communion—3pm

*Holy Saturday:* Easter Vigil (with the Easter fire & sung Exultet)—7pm

*Easter Sunday:* Mass of Easter Day—9.30am

\*NB Daylight Saving begins on Easter Sunday.

## **Defibrillator**

Since Saint Mary's school had a surplus defibrillator, they have passed it on to the parish. Our thanks to Saint Mary's! The life-saving device is now at the back of the church, on top of the case beneath the stained-glass windows. There are instructions with it. Ideally, it would be great if there were a number of people prepared to be designated users of the defibrillator in case of emergency. This does not require any commitment of time or energy beyond becoming familiar with the device and watching the short instruction video for it, which can be watched at leisure at home. If you are prepared to be one of the designated users, please let Fr Hugh know.

## Church clean

Volunteers are still invited to help Fr Hugh and the regulars to clean the church on Wednesday 27 March, after morning Mass. Even just a few hands will help make quick work of this.

## Easter Flowers

At the Masses this weekend there will be a retiring collection for flowers for Easter (they are sourced for us at a better-than-retail price). Please give what you can.

## Easter Week

On the weekdays after Easter there will be no public Masses. Fr Hugh may be away for some of that week.

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**Sunday Collection:** 16/17 March: £335.30, including £114 Gift Aided  
*(Previous week: £430.27, including £214 Gift Aided)*

### *Need to get in touch?*

**Fr Hugh:** St Elizabeth's Presbytery, 10 Hall Road, Scarisbrick, L40 9QE

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