



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

3 MARCH 2024

SUNDAY 3 IN LENT

Saturday, 2/3 <i>2nd Collection-Lenten Alms</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Anna Ackers
Sunday, 3/3 <i>2nd Collection-Lenten Alms</i>	Mass – 9.30am	† Joe & Dorothy Houghton
Wednesday, 6/3	Mass – 9.30am	Special Intention (JS)
Friday, 8/3	Mass – 9.30am	† Charlie & Helen Simpson
Saturday, 9/3 <i>2nd Collection-Nugent Care</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	Private Intention (JC)
Sunday, 10/3 <i>2nd Collection-Nugent Care</i>	Mass – 9.30am	† Mary Ashcroft
Wednesday, 13/3	<i>No Mass</i>	<i>Fr Hugh at Douai</i>

From the Pastor's Desk



IF YOU WATCH any social media or news websites you might have seen that already predictions and assessments of 2024 are being made, even though we are only two months into it. Mind you, it has not been a quiet year.

Some commentators have noted that 2024 is shaping up to be a bad year for royalty: King Charles has been diagnosed with cancer; the Princess of Wales has had mysterious abdominal surgery, the mystery stoking a measure of alarm; the Duchess of York is being treated for melanoma; Prince Edward has taken a break from royal duties; the son-in-law of Prince Michael of Kent took his own life with a gun; the King of Norway was hospitalised for a severe infection; and the Queen of Denmark suddenly abdicated.

You might have no care for royalty, but these troubles have a resonance when seen in the context of the alarm being generated over the many elections around the world this year. Seven of the world's ten biggest countries are holding elections, as are a number of other significant countries, including the USA, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia, and possibly the UK. The outcome of many of these elections is in the balance, and this is seen as a test of democracy, since potentially problematic governments may be elected. Russia's election will be a sham of democracy, but the recent death of Mr Navalny seems to have breathed new life into opposition to President Putin. The USA election may see a president elected who has threatened to remove support for Europe, Ukraine especially, and to move closer to Putin's Russia. The re-election to the UK Parliament this past week of George Galloway, who stood on an extreme Islamist, anti-Israel platform in Rochdale, and without any formal Labour candidate running against him, is rather emblematic of such concerns.

Commentators have noticed this year's royal tribulations in this context because they recognise in modern monarchies a stable, centrist, and unifying check to periodic bursts of extremism in politics.

As we pray this Friday for peace in the Holy Land, we should keep in our prayers also the future of our own societies—imperfect they might be, but we could (and might) do worse.

F2 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

Recently dead — *Rest in peace.*

Ricky

Day of Prayer for the Holy Land

The bishops have set Friday, 8 March as a day of special prayer for the Holy Land. As well as praying for peace in Israel at Mass that day, we are asked to direct our own personal prayers and Lenten devotions that day towards this intention, in line with the command of the Psalmist, “For the peace of Jerusalem, pray.” (Ps 122:6)

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, with reflections.

Criminal Justice Bill Amendment—Catholic action reminder

The Church in England and Wales supports amending the Criminal Justice Bill to lower the abortion time limit from 24 to 22 weeks. Please take a card from the back of church and send it to your local MP. The MP for West Lancs is Ashley Dalton. Her postal address is: Ashley Dalton MP, The Ecumenical Centre, Northway, Birch Green, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LU.

Reminder: Looking Towards the Cross—Lenten Course

On Tuesdays at 7.00–8.30pm during 5–26 March the Irenaeus Centre will offer a Lenten course that focuses on the meaning for Lent of Christ’s Cross. It will be offered at the Irenaeus Centre (32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo) or online via Zoom. For more information: jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 0151 9491199.

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.

Youth Ministry Opportunity

Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) is seeking a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26–28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food, etc. This role would suit somebody with youth ministry experience, perhaps a recent graduate. Anyone interested should contact jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Reminder: Lent Talk

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 £800.00 (shared room), flying from Manchester. For more information contact Chris Sykes 07587046985 or chrissykes2@hotmail.com

Sunday Collection 24/25 February: £412.75, including £149.25 Gift Aided
(*Previous week: £412.50, including £186 Gift Aided*)

Need to get in touch?

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Office Hours: 10.30am to 12.30pm, Wednesday & Friday

Safeguarding: Les Rippon @ scarisbrick.safeguarding@douaiabbey.org.uk