



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

31 MARCH 2024

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION & 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Saturday, 30/3	The Vigil – 7pm	People of the Parish
Easter Sunday, 31/3	Mass – 9.30am	Eric Mills
Easter Saturday, 6/4	Mass – 5.30pm	† Eva Molyneux
Sunday, 7/4	Mass – 9.30am	† Carol Marley
Tuesday, 9/4	Funeral – 11am	† Frances Clarkson
Wednesday, 10/4	Mass – 9.30am	Special Intention (JC)
Friday, 12/4	Mass – 9.30am	† Holy Souls (JC)
Saturday, 13/4	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† John Fagan

—No weekday Masses in Easter Week—

From the Pastor's Desk



IN THESE DAYS of the Sacred Triduum, the holiest days in the Christian calendar, you will have heard more than enough of my voice. So here I include below some excerpts from *An Ancient Homily for Holy Saturday*, which is read at the office of Matins by the clergy. It is lucid and beautiful, with the true message of Easter:

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep... God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear... Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."... I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hades. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated...

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree... My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hades...

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise; instead I will enthrone you in heaven... The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

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

Recently dead — *Rest in peace.*

Frances Clarkson, Clare Irlam

Easter Addition

Since the relocation to a more prominent position of the votive candles stand, and the consequent relocation of St Anthony to the Lady Chapel, the wall above the candles, where St Anthony had been, was suddenly and starkly bare. Even though the statue of Our Lady of Scarisbrick is adjacent, there still seemed need for something in that space. Happily, at Ormsby's Fr Hugh was shown, by chance, something that had come in, and which seemed ideal. A large and lovely print of the Visitation of Our Lady to St Elizabeth was in good condition in a sound frame, and needed only a clean. For a very modest price indeed this image of our church's patron saint has been acquired and will be present in church from the Easter Vigil.

A Vote of Thanks

Sincerest and warmest thanks to all those who have helped before and during the Sacred Triduum. In particular, there is the team of volunteers who cleaned the church in Holy Week, Kath and Monica and the choir for the music at the round of liturgies these last few days, readers, Evan our server, the flower arrangers, and all those who have assisted in small but vital ways, such as, for example, the collection takers and those helping with the Easter fire. All these helped make our church and its liturgy able to be as beautiful and dignified as these sacred days deserve.

Easter Flowers

Thank you for the generous donations last weekend for the Easter flowers, which means we should have enough to top up the flowers throughout Eastertide.

Funerals

In Low Week it is likely that there will be two funerals in church. A funeral Mass for Frances Clarkson (née Kenyon) will be held at 11am on Tuesday, 9 April. The funeral for Clare Irlam of Halsall is yet to be finalised, but is likely later in the week. Please remember Frances and Clare in your prayers.

Easter Week and beyond

On the weekdays after Easter there will be no public Masses in church. Fr Hugh *may* be away for some of that week. Indeed, over the next few weeks Fr Hugh may have to be at Douai more than once on trustees' business, as the monastery continues the process of appointing a new bursar. If there are any changes to weekday Masses these will be reflected in the bulletin.

Bulletin

There will be no new bulletin next weekend, so please check the website or the noticeboard on the church door for any changes to Mass times, and for the confirmed time for Clare Irlam's funeral.

Sunday Collection: 23/24 March: £366.57, including £141 Gift Aided
(*Previous week: £335.30, including £114 Gift Aided*)
2nd Collection (Easter flowers): £148.75

Need to get in touch?

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