



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*

14 APRIL 2024 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, 13/4	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† John Fagan
Sunday, 14/4	Mass – 9.30am --- <i>Baptism – 11am</i>	† Winnie Church --- <i>Rafi Ricardo Carraco</i>
Wednesday, 17/4	Mass – 9.30am	† Wright & Simpson Families
Friday, 19/4	Mass – 9.30am	Private Intention (JC)
Saturday, 20/4 <i>2nd Collection: Priests' Training Fund</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Norman & Frances Olverson
Sunday, 21/4 <i>2nd Collection: Priests' Training Fund</i>	Mass – 9.30am	† William Devine

From the Pastor's Desk



I AM WRITING a little later than usual this week. My attention has been absorbed today by the unfolding tragedy in Sydney. The shopping centre in Bondi Junction, where the knifeman ran amok, is the major shopping and transport hub in an otherwise very residential parish where I have stayed and assisted on my last two visits home. As I write, 6 people have been killed, and a 9-month old is having emergency surgery after also being stabbed. A lone woman police inspector confronted the knifeman and shot him dead as he refused to back down while approaching her.

It had been, until the man struck, a normal Saturday afternoon, a pleasant sunny one indeed, in a busy suburban shopping centre, not very far from the city centre and very close to a major attraction, Bondi Beach. As you will appreciate, the internet was soon showing footage of the chaos that ensued. Having worked three years in Sydney's police radio control room, I can assure you there would have been, not chaos, but fevered, breathless activity there, as the police tried to get a good idea what was going on as the panicked phone calls to the emergency number flooded in. Speculation about the event is rife, and it is only fuelled by the fact that Bondi has a significant Jewish population.

This is a sad opportunity to think about how we would react, and cope, if we were in the middle of something similar: sudden, random, confusing, chaotic, violent, and deadly.

The knifeman's identity and motive remain unconfirmed. We can, however, be sure that we find in this sad event, as in so many others, a symptom of the fundamental affliction common to all humanity: original sin. In some individuals, in certain contexts, original sin is manifested in terrifying ways. It is our slavery to sin that Easter frees us from, and our consequent exile from God. But the Resurrection of Jesus is not a magic wand for the behaviour of fallen humanity. We need God's grace, and a resolute good will, to conquer sin in our lives. Baptism is the first step in the life of grace. We should pray each morning as if the coming day might be our last. Are we ready to see God? Let us renew our prayers for peace in the world, beginning in every human heart. And let us pray for the victims, sparing a prayer also for the policewoman who shot the knifeman; she has much to cope with now as well.

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.*

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

Marie Wright, Robert Burrows, William Ball, Neville Hill, Irene Young, Catherine Ball, Josie Prescott, Francis Porter

The Gift of Easter

Father Chris Thomas of the Irenaeus Centre will be offering sessions over three Wednesdays (17 & 24 April, 1 May) on the meaning of Easter as a gift to humanity. The talks will be based on the holy scriptures. The venue is Saint Teresa's, Norris Green, and will run from 7pm–8.30pm. There is no mention of any fee, but you are asked to let St Teresa's know you are coming by email: stteresang@rcaol.org.uk

Introduction to Vatican II

Light of Truth, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Liverpool, will be hosting a study day introducing the basics of Vatican II on Saturday 27 April, from 10am–3pm. This is an opportunity to learn the basic teachings of Vatican II for anyone unfamiliar with its documents. The sessions will take place in the Gibberd Room at the Metropolitan Cathedral. To sign up for this free event, visit this page:

<https://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/jaujdgxs>

Society of Saint Gregory Summer School

From 31 July to 3 August the Society of Saint Gregory (SSG) will be holding a summer school at Liverpool Hope University. The society is dedicated to the sacred liturgy, including its musical aspects. Topics to be covered include the new lectionary that will be introduced from Advent this year, which includes a new psalter translation as well as a new translation for the scripture readings. There is the possibility to live-in at the university for the duration of the summer school. There is a poster at the back of church with more information, or you can go to the SSG's website: <https://www.ssg.org.uk/summer-school-2024/>

Music at the Cathedral

The grand organ at the Metropolitan Cathedral has just been restored and the cathedral is offering opportunities to hear it in action. The first will be a service of Eastertide carols (yes, Easter has carols too!) at 3pm on Sunday, 21 April. At 3pm on Sunday 12 May there will be choral vespers with the solemn re-dedication of the organ. Unsurprisingly, these events are free and no booking is required.

Second Collection next Sunday

There will be a second collection next Sunday for the Priests' Training Fund. 75% of this collection goes to Douai Abbey, to contribute to the priestly training of our two monks in formation, who are potentially future parish priests here at Scarisbrick.

Sunday Collection: Easter: £618.08,* including £185.43 Gift Aided
(Easter 2023: £583.82, , including £175 Gift Aided)
(Previous week: £366.57, including £141 Gift Aided)
Good Friday Collection (Holy Places): £107.40
(Good Friday 2023: £102.76)
6/7 April: £386.90, including £136 Gift Aided

* The total would have been £628.08 but a mutilated £10 note was in the collection, ¼ of the note missing. The post office will only accept damaged notes if both its serial numbers are present; sellotaping two bits together is fine.

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