



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*

28 APRIL 2024 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, 27/4	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Anne Bell
Sunday, 28/4	Mass – 9.30am <i>Baptism – 11am</i>	People of the Parish <i>Frederic Wright-Marshall</i>
Wednesday, 1/5	Mass – 9.30am	† Joe Lewis
Friday, 3/5	Mass – 9.30am	† Notker Wolf OSB
Saturday, 4/5	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Mary Cammack
Sunday, 5/5	Mass – 9.30am	† Audrey Mitchell
Wednesday, 8/5 <i>Vigil of the Ascension</i>	Mass – 5.30pm	People of the Parish
Thursday, 9/5 <i>Ascension Thursday</i>	Mass – 9.30am	† Horace & Margaret Staniforth

From the Pastor's Desk



THE FIRST READING at Mass throughout Eastertide is taken most often from the Acts of the Apostles. Written by Saint Luke, it is a sort of sequel to his gospel. He records the life of the new-born Church after the Lord has ascended to the Father. The Twelve (with Judas replaced by Saint Matthias) are no longer merely the inner circle of disciples. They have become apostles, no longer merely followers but now—as the original Greek signifies—heralds sent out to proclaim

the Good News. Yet they are more than mere heralds; they have spiritual power given to them by Christ who ordained them by the gift of the Holy Spirit. The apostles act in Christ's name, with his power and authority, and their duty is to build the Church, the congregation of salvation, the New Israel, which is not founded on 12 tribes but these 12 apostles, and the bishops ordained to take on their mission down the centuries.

In the Acts of the Apostles we see them full of new zeal, authority, and eloquence. They teach, they correct, they heal, they ordain, they found new communities of the faithful, beginning with the Jews but very soon to include the Gentiles. Saint Paul was the great proponent of the fact that Christ's new covenant was not just the old one with some added zest. It introduced a wholly changed reality, and a whole new relationship between God and all humanity. For this reason we count Saint Paul as the 13th apostle.

Central to the apostles' work was appointing leaders for these new communities, conferring on them an authority in Christ's name and with his authority. They had to see that the various needs of the local Church were met, by appointing people who were both competent and faithful to fill the emerging roles. So we soon see deacons appear, and the beginnings of what will become more explicitly the presbyteral priesthood. There were also lectors, acolytes, doorkeepers, and more. As the Church grew, so too did its ministries; as the ministries developed and expanded, so too did the Church.

All who serve in the Church, from pope downwards, are constantly reminded that they serve not their own interests, but those of Christ and his Church. But you do not need a ministry to offer real service to the Church: prayer and good works are the essential marks of a Church worthy of her Lord, the good fruit that proves the Church's vitality.

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, Andrew, *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

Missio Red Boxes

In 2023 our parishioners who have taken on a red box from Missio, donating loose change, were able to contribute £1454.99 to the missionary work of the Church. Little Scarisbrick punched well above its weight within the archdiocese: though one of the smallest parishes, it ranked 42 out of over 160 for the total amount donated. To put that in a more national perspective, Liverpool is second only to Birmingham (among the dioceses of England and Wales) as the most generous supporter of Missio financially. There is a poster in the porch conveying Missio's thanks. Your support helps missionaries in poor and challenging areas to proclaim the Gospel to people who really need, and want, to hear it. If you don't have a red box but would like to start, please see Missio's parish rep, Mary Selby.

Little Church and Commissioning of Ministers

Little Church will begin on Trinity Sunday. At least to begin with, it will take place in the sacristy (using a lovely large carpet which still needs to be cleaned). As (if?) it gets warmer it may take place from time to time in the presbytery garden. On Sunday 12 May Fr Hugh will re-commission those who serve in various ministries in the parish: readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and children's ministers/catechists. This has not been done for some years and is long overdue. Commissioning is a formal recognition of this service to the parish and the Church. Commissioning regulates and integrates these roles more formally within the mission of the Church. Please pray for them.

Baptism

Frederic Wright-Marshall will be baptised after Sunday Mass this weekend. Please pray for him and his family.

Last Week's Second Collection

Thank you for donating so generously to the Priests' Training Fund. As I mentioned, 75% of it goes to Douai to help in the formation of Brothers Aidan and Tobias. One or both may be parish priest here one day!

First Confessions

On Friday, 20 children from Saint Mary's school will come to church to make their First Confession. As you will know, this is part of their preparation for First Holy Communion (and Confirmation) on 21 July. Please keep our children especially in your prayers this coming week.

Ascension Thursday

Please note that Ascension falls next week. It is a **holy day of obligation**. Therefore, Mass on Wednesday 8 May will be at 5.30pm, as the vigil Mass for the feast day. On the day itself there will be Mass at 9.30am. Both Masses fulfil the obligation

Sunday Collection: 20/21 April: £422.21, including £196 Gift Aided
(Previous week: £416.85, including £186 Gift Aided)
2nd Collection (Priests' Training): £291.48, including £55 Gift Aided

Thank you!

Need to get in touch?

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

☎ 01704 880 226

@ stelizabeth.southport@rcaol.org.uk

🏠 www.stelizabeths-scarisbrick.org.uk

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

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