



# 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*

## 5 MAY 2024 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

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
Saturday, 11/5 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: World Comms</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Anthony Kerr
Sunday, 12/5 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: World Comms</i>	Mass – 9.30am	
<i>Wednesday, 15/5– Saturday, 18/5</i>	<i>No Masses</i>	<i>(Fr Hugh at Douai)</i>

## From the Pastor's Desk



ON THURSDAY JUST passed there were elections around the country for certain local council positions, some mayoralties, and some police and crime commissioners. As with all elections in Britain, voting is optional. This is one of the great weaknesses in our democracy; democracy only really works when *everyone* votes. When it is optional, only the especially motivated participate, and many of them have an agenda to pursue that may not reflect the opinions of the majority. When combined with a first-past-the-post

system, this means that a minority can determine the outcome of elections, with results that affect everyone. In countries like Australia, Singapore, and Austria, voting is compulsory. This means that elections reflect the entire electorate; and it also means that everyone has the right to complain. If you don't vote, you cannot complain about the outcome!

We view democracy as the best of all possible systems. I am not entirely convinced that is true in absolute terms. It is certainly preferable to most other systems we find in the world today. Dictatorships are dire, one-party systems are a sham, and oligarchies are just as inherently unjust as the other non-democratic systems. Yet we have seen in recent years with new clarity how easy it is to influence voters by propaganda, and manipulating sources of information. The social media have been used to great effect for this purpose, but they have also allowed us to see more clearly than ever before that such manipulation is happening, as has been happening for decades.

The Church is not a democracy; it never was, never will be, never should be. Christianity is a monarchy: Christ is our King and Shepherd. In his name the Church appoints shepherds to do the work Christ has entrusted to the Church in the world. But in the world the Church is inescapably human, and its shepherds are human, subject to sin like all the other members of the Church. Sadly we hear of people who give up the practice of their faith and involvement in the Church citing the sins of some shepherds; and not only the shepherds for that matter. Yet, how does refusing to be involved help the Church? How does refusing to vote build up a healthy democratic society? The first step to reforming democracy is to exercise our right to vote, a right that hundreds of millions do not have. And the Church will never grow in holiness and fruitfulness if its members refuse to be part of its life. The holiness, the witness to the truth, the active charity of each of us is what renews the Church, and so the world.

*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.*

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

Rebecca Ann Brown, Michael Branwood, Vincent Jones, Philip Halsall, Joan Riozzi, Margaret Mary Moss, Bernard Whitty, John Tully, Joseph Bond

## **Recently dead — *Rest in peace.***

Mary Cammack, Jerome Wilson

## **Vacancy—Site Supervisor—Saint Mary's School**

Our parish school is looking to appoint a friendly, enthusiastic, organised, proactive and hardworking *Site Supervisor* to our school team, working for 27.5 hours per week. For further information, please look online at the Lancashire county website: [https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt\\_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63593](https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63593). Applications close on 17 May.

## **Deanery Events**

Two events on the deanery to note. The **first** is that there will be a deanery novena of Masses leading up to the feast of the Holy Cross on 14 September. Each parish in the deanery will host a Mass, to which all the deanery is invited and at which all the priests of the deanery will be invited to concelebrate. St Elizabeth's will host the novena Mass on Monday 9 September at 7pm. **Secondly**, there will be a viewing of the video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles, founder of the *Word on Fire* global evangelisation organisation, on the Eucharist, at Our Lady and All Saints' school, Brandreth Drive, Parbold, WN8 7HD, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22 May. There is plenty of parking, refreshments will be served, and all are invited.

## **Little Church**

Thanks to Bernie and Grahame Laird, the large carpet we will use for Little Church in the sacristy has received a good cleaning with their electric wet cleaner. It is now bright, clean and ready to use from Trinity Sunday.

## **Bleeding Control Kit**

The archdiocesan finance office has provided each parish with a Bleeding Control Kit. This is a response to the recent spike in knife crime, and the fact that quick and effective first aid for knife wounds saves lives. The kit will live with defibrillator at the back of the church. All are encouraged to find further information at the website of the charity which put together the kits, [www.knifesavers.co.uk](http://www.knifesavers.co.uk).

## **First Confessions**

Last Friday morning, 20 children from Saint Mary's school made their First Confession in church. They were well prepared and it was a lovely occasion. Please keep praying for them and their families, and for those preparing them for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

## **Ascension Thursday**

Please note that Ascension falls this coming week. It is a **holy day of obligation**. The Vigil Mass is on Wednesday 8 May at 5.30pm; Mass of the day is at 9.30am.

---

**Sunday Collection:** 27/28 April: £392.57, including £156 Gift Aided  
(*Previous week: £422.21, including £196 Gift Aided*)

---

## ***Need to get in touch?***

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

Tel: 01704 880 226

Email: [stelizabeth.southport@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stelizabeth.southport@rcaol.org.uk)

Website: [www.stelizabeths-scarisbrick.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths-scarisbrick.org.uk)

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

Safeguarding: [Les Rippon-scarisbrick.safeguarding@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:LesRippon-scarisbrick.safeguarding@douaiabbey.org.uk)