



# 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*

## 16 JUNE 2024 SUNDAY 11 (B) *per annum*

Saturday, 15/6 <i>2nd Collection: Family in Need</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	Private intention (JC)
Sunday, 16/6 <i>2nd Collection: Family in Need</i>	Mass – 9.30am	† John & Rebecca Ann Brown
Wednesday, 19/6	Mass – 9.30am	† Finbar Kealy OSB
Friday, 21/6	Mass – 9.30am	† Maureen Dobson
Saturday, 22/6	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	Welfare of the EBC
Sunday, 23/6	Mass – 9.30am <i>Morning Tea after Mass</i>	People of the Parish
Wednesday, 26/6	Mass – 9.30am	
Friday, 28/6	Mass – 9.30am	

## From the Pastor's Desk



THIS PAST WEEK Father Finbar died. He had been in Royal Berkshire Hospital for treatment on his ulcerated leg, a condition he had been battling for some time. Yet that was but one of the chronic and acute health challenges he was facing. Over a long chat with him in May when I was at Douai, it became starkly clear that his day was dominated by the laborious and uncomfortable treatments for a condition, or conditions, the doctors seemed unable to identify. The weight of his ailments literally bowed him down, his tall figure reduced by a stoop of the head.

However, through it all, he remained remarkably tranquil, even serene, even as the pain and discomfort told on his face. He was firmly grateful for the care he was receiving, even when it was clear that at Douai the brethren were no longer able to give him care to the level he needed. He moved out into care with the same resignation and trust. Then in the last week or so he had to be taken to hospital for urgent treatment, where finally the mysterious confederacy of ailments that assailed him, claimed him. He had been attended for hours the day before by Abbot Paul, and on the day itself by his monastic contemporary, Fr Peter. He was ready, and very much willing, to return to the Lord.

Father Finbar was, as his monastic name suggests, an Irishman, Dublin-born. He had been deputy headmaster of the monastery's former school, and was elected abbot in 1990 after the sudden death of Abbot Leonard, who had not served even a year as abbot before he died. The 8 years of Fr Finbar's abbacy were tough, at a time of growing strain for the monastery as the school began to shrink, as too the numbers of monks, and parishes had to be surrendered. His occasional flashes of Irish fire could be forgiven him in such trying circumstances. It was a relief for him to retire as abbot, after which he spent time in Ormskirk, then lived with Father Peter for several years in old Douai, an experimental small community in our previous hometown which itself did not flourish, but in which *he* did. Then he was asked to be administrator of Quarr Abbey, which had been enduring a crisis of its own. Here his gifts for quiet, constant leadership found their outlet, and he restored that community's peace. After this he was for a number of years the guestmaster at Douai, a job which challenged him administratively even as he savoured its scope for engaging personally with visitors and guests.

My point is this: his sufferings sanctified him, and he died a very fine monk, and a man of proven faith. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

*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, C & J, Robert, Sue, a parish family in distress, *and all in need of grace.*

## **June anniversaries (within the last 10 years) — *May they rest in peace.***

Hannah Cain, John Halsall, Pam Bialeck, David Forshaw, Bernadette Caddick, Elizabeth Elliot, Justin Hunter, John Brown, Josephine Darragh

## ***Day by Day* Subscribers—More!**

The August and September editions of *Day by Day* have arrived, though only 5 of the former and 7 of the latter, as opposed to 6 of both. Given not all the copies of recent editions have been taken this may be no problem, but the missing copy will be obtained in due course.

## **Gardening help update**

Regrettably, and disappointingly, no one has come forward to help Corrine with her lawn-mowing and garden clean up needs (for which she is happy to pay). If anyone employs someone for such work please give Father Hugh his/her details so we can engage that person for Corrine.

## **Second Collection—new beneficiary**

The second collection set for today is for the Day for Life, a worthy intention. However, the family in distress for which we have been discreetly praying remains in need. Therefore today's second collection will be for them, to augment what they get from the foodbank in Ormskirk and to provide clothing for the 4 children. The schools involved have been of great assistance to them. In time they should receive greater government support, but there is no date for that as yet. This is a family among us, and charity begins at home (though it should not end there, of course). Please give what you can today; donations or even gift cards could be left at the presbytery for them during the coming week if that is more convenient; just slip them through the letter box if Father Hugh is not in.

## **Morning Tea**

Given my bad health this past week, and the likely prospect of rain this Sunday, in what has been a wet and cold summer so far, Morning Tea after Mass is postponed to next Sunday.

## **Father Finbar's funeral**

The funeral for Father Finbar will be on at Douai Abbey on Wednesday 3 July, starting at 11.30am. His body will be received into the abbey church the evening before. Father Hugh will be attending the funeral.

## **Archbishop Malcolm**

Our archbishop turned 75 on Friday. *Ad multos annos!* On turning 75 bishops must submit their resignation to the pope, but the pope does not have to accept it. For the time being Archbishop Malcolm will continue in his post at Liverpool.

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**Sunday Collection:** 8/9 June: £370.08, including £135 Gift Aided  
(1/2 June: £674.12, including £ 415.30 Gift Aided)

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

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