



# 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*

## 30 JUNE 2024 SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

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|---|--|---|
| Saturday, 29/6<br><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Peter's Pence</i> | Mass – 5.30pm<br><i>Confessions 5.00pm</i> | † Philip Hyde                           |
| Sunday, 30/6<br><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Peter's Pence</i>   | Mass – 9.30am                              | † Harry Barnes                          |
| <i>Wednesday, 3/7</i>   | <i>No Mass</i>                             | <i>Fr Finbar's funeral<br/>at Douai</i> |
| Friday, 5/7   | Mass – 9.30am                              | † Wright & Simpson<br>Families          |
| Saturday, 6/7   | Mass – 5.30pm<br><i>Confessions 5.00pm</i> | Special Intention (JS)                  |
| Sunday, 7/7   | Mass – 9.30am                              | † Steve Hathaway                        |
| Wednesday, 10/7   | Mass – 9.30am                              | Special Intention (JS)                  |
| Friday, 12/7  | Mass – 9.30am                              | † Richard Plunkett                      |

## From the Pastor's Desk



TELEVISED LEADERSHIP DEBATES between candidates expose the weakness in the politics of the western democracies. At first they had real value, for the leaders spoke without relying on pre-determined soundbites or scripts. In 1984 during a presidential candidates debate between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale, Regan was told that he was the oldest ever president, and asked if he could cope with four more years; Reagan shot back that he refused to make an age an issue, and exploit his opponent's

youth and inexperience. Reagan was 73, Mondale was 56.

The recent candidates debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump was between men of 81 and 78 respectively. Mr Biden was clearly mentally impaired, and even pre-prepared scripts and soundbites were beyond him. Mr Trump rarely sticks to scripts anyway, so he relished the occasion. In our own recent leaders' debate, both Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer, much younger men, were not mentally, but politically impaired. Both relied overwhelmingly on prepared scripts and mantra-like soundbites, used to make noise and avoid directly answering direct questions.

Be they older or younger, our political leaders seem averse to giving direct answers to direct questions. In many ways, the 'leaders' are not leading at all, but are the figurehead mouthpieces for their party machines. The party political advisor has more real power than any senior civil servant, or even ministers of the crown. The satirical TV series *The Thick of It* mocked precisely this reality. The problem is: these advisors are not elected, and rarely even seen, and not accountable as civil servants and politicians are.

We are fortunate to live in a democracy that still merits that label. Yet we can only vote for those our system proposes to us. That the USA, with 336 million people, can propose only Biden and Trump as prospective leaders, shows the power of the party machines and the increasing irrelevance of leaders as leaders. Here, that both Sunak and Starmer could almost be reading, robotically, from the same script exposes our own leadership void. No political machine will ever give us leaders like Saint Peter or St Paul.

When we vote in this Thursday, and we all must who can, we will have a difficult choice to make, seemingly one between only bad or worse. But we *can* still make a free choice, even if only to spoil the ballot paper! So let us pray first, and then vote with our heads not our hearts, enlightened by our Christian faith, and not by ideology or tribal loyalties.

*Fr Hugh*

## **The ill, infirm, and others needing prayer**

Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Tess and Eric Mills, Jean Olverson, Paddy Mott, Joe Ackers, Anne Bradfield-Kay, Kath Wilson, 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

## **Mass cards back in stock**

As well as the latest delivery of *Day by Day* booklets for those who have subscribed to them, the church porch has now been re-stocked with sympathy/Mass cards for the dead, at £1.50 each.

## **Morning Tea**

A wet Saturday and the prospect of rain during Sunday Mass have meant that we will try next weekend for morning tea in the presbytery garden. If only we had a hall.

## **Father Finbar's funeral**

Father Hugh will be attending the funeral, so there will be no Mass in church on Wednesday, 3 July.

## **Saint Vincent de Paul Appeal**

On 6 and 7 July, there will be an appeal by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Saint Anne's, Ormskirk. This is to explain their work and invite new members, including anyone from Saint Elizabeth's. On Monday 8 July at 8 pm in Saint Anne's parish centre there will be a meeting for anyone interested in joining in their good work for locals in need. Please come along if you want to know more. Richard Ainsworth is Saint Elizabeth's rep and can also supply you with more information.

## **Second collection—Peter's Pence**

The second collection this weekend is Peter's Pence, an ancient collection taken throughout the universal Church, which goes to funding the pope's special works.

## **Late donations to needy family**

Many thanks for the donations received this past week, intended for the collection two weeks ago for the local family in distress. We have been able to give them another £75.

## **Fr Hugh's last Masses at Scarisbrick**

Fr Hugh will celebrate his last Masses in the parish, before his return to Douai, on the weekend of 10/11 August. After the First Holy Communions/Confirmations on 21 July he will take a long-planned holiday. In his absence there will be only the Sunday Mass on both 28 July and 4 August, which Mgr John Buchard will kindly be celebrating for the parish.

## **Catenian Summer Circular Walk—The Saracen's Head**

Ormskirk Catenians are organising a 5-mile Summer Circular Walk for Thursday, 25 July, starting at 10am from The Saracen's Head in Halsall, ending there with an optional lunch. If you are interested in joining the walk, please phone Ian Robinson on 01257 462100 or email [r.i.irobinson60@btinternet.com](mailto:r.i.irobinson60@btinternet.com).

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**Sunday Collection:** 22/23 June: £399.60, including £169 Gift Aided

*(15/16 June: £250.02, including £ 93.45 Gift Aided)*

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## ***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:* [LesRippon-scarisbrick.safeguarding@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:LesRippon-scarisbrick.safeguarding@douaiabbey.org.uk)