



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*

23 JUNE 2024 SUNDAY 12 (B) *per annum*

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	† Tony Cahill
Friday, 28/6	Mass – 9.30am	† Tony Cahill
Saturday, 29/6 <i>2nd Collection: Peter's Pence</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Philip Hyde
Sunday, 30/6 <i>2nd Collection: Peter's Pence</i>	Mass – 9.30am	People of the Parish
Wednesday, 3/7	<i>No Mass</i>	<i>Fr Finbar's funeral at Douai</i>
Friday, 5/7	Mass – 9.30am	† Wright & Simpson Families

From the Pastor's Desk



THE WORD ‘MARTYRDOM’ is bandied about quite a bit in public discourse, religious and secular. In certain settings it has become an ambiguous accomplishment. The title is at times claimed on behalf of people we would be more inclined to see as perpetrators than as victims. Who is to say who is, who isn’t, a martyr?

The problem is not new. St Cyprian, who lived among rival claims to martyrdom in 3rd-century Carthage, passed on a maxim that still holds: *Martyrem non facit poena sed causa*: it is not death as such that makes a martyr but the cause for which one dies. No martyr, or literally ‘witness’ is self-referential. In the ordinary sense, to ‘bear witness’ is to frame a statement about truth; to speak that which is.

The Greek Fathers loved to say that man is λογικός (‘rational’ or ‘logical’), that is, capable of λόγος (‘word’). To be human is essentially to be of the Word. That is how the Word could be incarnate. Now, it does not take more than a bout of ‘flu to remind us that we are dust, subject to decay. Yet our spirit is fit to conceive of and utter words with a bearing on eternity. Hence the need to recall that what we say, and don’t say, matters—at times more than anything else.

Today [22 June] we honour two martyrs we are proud to claim as ours. Their characters were various. Yet they had this in common: their speech was ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; and no threat of terror could make them substitute one for the other.

They resolved to die because they held truth dearer than life itself. They were canonised for this love of truth. To know the truth is one thing. To love it is another. Love is conquered over time. Only slowly does it flower into fortitude.

Saints John Fisher and Thomas More practised the asceticism of love in public life. In speaking, study, and statesmanship, they maintained the integrity of words. Finding it imperilled, they spoke.

We, too, are called to bear witness to the truth in a world seduced by phantasms, sometimes by outright lies. Who knows what account we may be called upon to give in our strange times? May our martyrs help us to revere the truth. May we be consecrated in the truth, graced to suffer and, yes, even to give our lives for love of it. Amen

[Today’s reflection is from Bishop Erik Varden OCSO of Trondheim, edited for length, marking the feast of Sts John Fisher and Thomas More.]

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, and are available in the church porch.

Gardening help update

Thank you to those who have been in touch about gardening help for Corrine. There are some very promising leads.

Morning Tea

Given the prospect of fair weather at last, morning tea will be held in the presbytery garden after Sunday Mass this weekend. Thank you to those making it happen!

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, so there will be no Mass in church on that day.

Last weekend's second collection

Just under £300 was collected for the family in distress, so it was rounded up to that neat total. Many thanks for your generous help to them.

Next weekend's second collection

Next weekend is Peter's Pence, the ancient annual collection to support the works of the pope.

Porch notice boards

Please remember to check the porch noticeboards for various events, and the for links to the bishops' guidance for the election. There is a new poster about St Mary's school open morning.

Sunday Collection: 15/16 June: £250.02, including £93.45 Gift Aided

(8/9 June: £370.08, including £ 135 Gift Aided)

** Second collection: £298.99 (rounded up to £300)

Need to get in touch?

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