



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*

7 JULY 2024 SUNDAY 14 (B) *per annum*

Saturday, 6/7	Mass – 5.30pm <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
Saturday, 13/7	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Frances Mary Clarkson
Sunday, 14/7	Mass – 9.30am <i>Baptism – 11.00am</i>	† Maureen Fletcher <i>Michael Jones</i>
<i>Wednesday, 17/7 & Friday 19/7</i>	<i>No Mass</i>	<i>Fr Hugh away at conference</i>
Saturday, 20/7	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Sharon Halsall

From the Pastor's Desk



WHAT A STRANGE ELECTION it has been in so many ways. That it was called when it was is strange enough. There were strange happenings: eg, the actor pretending to be a Reform activist and saying outrageous things, or the Tory staffers—even police officers—with advance knowledge placing very accurate bets on the timing of the election. If you look at the news around the world our little scandals look insignificant indeed; inexcusable, but not seismic.

Indeed, this year is being touted as the great test of democracy, as 64 countries have elections in 2024: the UK, the USA, India, France, Russia, Pakistan, South Africa, the EU, Iran, et al. Some of these are real elections, too many are shams, and some are democratic but with a narrow range of uninspiring choices. But what is democracy? Is an election in the UK comparable to one in Russia? Or even Australia? Labour has been returned with a landslide majority having received only 33.8% of the votes cast, yet gaining 412 of 650 seats. With such a supermajority Labour can impose its programme with little real scrutiny, even though 2/3 of voters did not want them. More bizarrely, Labour increased its vote by only 1.6% over 2019 when they lost to a (smaller) Tory landslide, and most of this 1.6% was in Scotland.

While our process is democratic, its structure is not really democratic because it is only partially representative. Reform UK got 14.3% of the vote but only 5 seats, the Lib Dems got 12.2% but 72 seats! The SNP got 2.5% of the vote (all in Scotland of course) and still managed 9 seats in Westminster despite its disastrous election. First-past-the-post is elegantly simple, but fatally flawed—in Blackburn, an Islamist independent was elected with only 27% of the votes cast; that means 73%—the vast majority—did *not* want him yet now must have him. The Australian preferential system makes much more sense.

What is my real point? We should ask ourselves what people really mean when they talk of democracy. We should ask what are democracy's virtues, and if they can actually be found in any particular system that claims to be democratic. But it also means that landslides—2019 vs 2024—are now inherently unstable. As in the Chinese curse, we live in interesting times. As Christians we should remember that our lasting citizenship is in another Kingdom, whose King shall reign forever, a Kingdom of Truth, and thus of peace, unity; an eternal Kingdom, and there only will we find our true and stable home. Christ's choice for us is far more important than any political choice we can make.

Fr Hugh

The ill, infirm, and others needing prayer

Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Tess & Eric Mills, Jean Olverson, Paddy Mott, Joe Ackers, Kath Wilson, Andrew, C & J, Robert, Sue, a parish family in distress, *and all in need of grace.*

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

James Murray, Cecilia Porter, Robert Gregory, John Corcoran, James Tomlin, Ethel Mitchell, David Tinsley

***Day by Day* subscriptions**

It seems only 3 of the 5 of the *Day by Day* monthly editions are being taken. If by next week the subscribers do not take their editions the parish will reduce the order to 3 copies per month. At present, these copies not taken and paid for are effectively a waste of parish money.

First Holy Communion & Confirmations

A reminder that we will have a goodly number of children receive Confirmation and make the First Holy Communion at Mass on Sunday 21 July. Abbot Paul will be with us to confer Confirmation. Let us pray for clement weather so we can have a refreshments after Mass in the presbytery garden!

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 Communion/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.

An offering from the archdiocese

Are you involved in any ministry in the Church? Are you interested in doing more for the Church? A new online course in Catholic Pastoral Leadership might be what you are looking for. Liverpool Hope University has partnered with several Catholic dioceses across England and Wales to help people gain fresh perspectives on Scripture and Church teaching. You will look at real-world issues in the light of our tradition and consider the best ways of exploring Christian faith with others.

There are 4 modules over 2 years: The Word of God, The Synodal Church, Dimensions of Christian Life, The Church's Mission in the World

There are two ways to take the course. Either use the material presented online and do some assessed work to complete the course (total cost £1900). Or take this course as a postgraduate certificate (60 credits) with additional work (total cost £2400). To find out more, email training@rcaol.org.uk for a link to a Zoom information session, 7.00-8.30pm on Monday 22 July.

Sunday Collection: 29/30 June: £271.20, including £121 Gift Aided
(22/23 June: £399.60, including £169 Gift Aided)
2nd Collection (Peter's Pence): £129.21

Need to get in touch?

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