



# 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*

**14 JULY 2024**

**SUNDAY 15 (B) *per annum***

Saturday, 13/7	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Frances Mary Clarkson
Sunday, 14/7	Mass – 9.30am	† Maureen Fletcher
<i>Wednesday, 17/7 &amp; Friday 19/7</i>	<i>No Mass</i>	<i>Fr Hugh away at conference</i>
Saturday, 20/7 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Priests' Retirement</i>	Mass – 5.30pm <i>Confessions 5.00pm</i>	† Sharon Halsall
Sunday, 21/7 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Priests' Retirement</i>	Mass – 9.30am <i>Confirmations &amp; First Holy Communions</i>	People of the Parish
<i>Wednesday, 24/7 – Saturday 3/8</i>	<i>No weekday or Saturday Masses</i>	<i>Fr Hugh away</i>
Sunday 28/7	Mass – 9.30am	Welfare of the EBC
Sunday, 4/8	Mass – 9.30am	People of the Parish

## From the Pastor's Desk



IT HAS NOT BEEN it a good couple of weeks for America's President Biden. He has had some strong points in his presidency, not least his unequivocal support for Ukraine, but as a *Catholic* president he has been something of a let-down, to say the least. In the last fortnight the media has finally taken notice of what has been apparent for the best part of the last year: that Mr Biden is in the early stages of dementia. Now his party is desperately seeking to nudge him out of standing for the next election. It is all a little bit

too late; they knew of his decline a long time ago but cynically kept him as their nominee on the assumption that since he had defeated Mr Trump once, he could do so again.

Dementia is no small thing, no laughing matter. We all know that in the early stages of dementia those who suffer it cannot comprehend its reality, and even deny it. It can be a hard slog to manage the decline while keeping sufferers' spirits up. We should also know that the sooner the reality of the onset of dementia is acknowledged, the less stressful (though hardly stress-less!) it becomes to manage. Those around Mr Biden have left him in an invidious position: he still thinks he can do the job, that he just has 'bad days,' and so the damage-control scrum around him is all the more distressing for everyone involved. Given he is the leader of what is still the world's most powerful nation, and the guarantor insofar as it can be of what remains of global stability, Mr Biden's plight affects more than just himself; it affects us as well.

It is an almost universal human trait to shrink from facing a hard reality. That is why so many forms of escapism have flourished throughout human history, especially in our day. Sin is one form of escapism. Sin is always an attempt to escape a situation we do not like, that is uncomfortable, unsettling, even painful, sometimes even evil. It involves a choice of what we *think* is good for ourselves personally, but which inevitably involves an affront or an injury to others, even—indeed especially—God. Sin is form of self-delusion; in opting for what appears a gain, we find it is a gain only temporarily (if at all) and that it has consequences for ourselves and others that we come to regret, often bitterly. Then we say to ourselves, 'If only I had not done that.' Sin in haste, repent at leisure, as they say.

We might pray this weekend for those who are afflicted with dementia, which cruelly cuts its sufferers off from reality. And let us pray for sinners, who seek to escape reality in ways ultimately futile and harmful. In both cases, they and others must bear the consequences.

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

## **Recently dead — *May he rest in peace.***

John Forshaw (*funeral in church at 11am on Friday 26 July—tbc*)

## **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

## **Preparation for First Holy Communions & Confirmations**

If you can help with the cleaning of the church in preparation for Sunday, please come to church from 10am on Wednesday, 17 July. Many hands will make it pretty light work! And please pray for clement weather so we can have a refreshments after Mass in the presbytery garden.

## **Little Church recess**

Today's Little Church will be the last for the summer, since schools will be breaking up and families going on holiday. Little Church will resume on 8 September.

## **Priests' Retirement Fund**

The annual collection for the priests' retirement fund will be next weekend. The Church has a responsibility to maintain in some dignity those who have served the Church for only a relative pittance in weekly stipends. 75% of this collection at Scarisbrick goes to support Douai monks in their retirement. We think in particular of Fr Boniface, who now lives in care in Sussex.

## **Cathedral Concert—The Sixteen**

The world-renowned choir *The Sixteen* will be singing at the cathedral on Friday 20 September from 7.30pm. Tickets start from only £8.50, with the full price being only £17. You can book at <https://thesixteen.com/book-online/68601/>

## **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](mailto:training@rcaol.org.uk) for a link to a Zoom information session, 7.00-8.30pm on Monday 22 July.

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**Sunday Collection:** 6/7 July: £409.70, including £205.50 Gift Aided  
(29/30 June: £271.20, including £121 Gift Aided)

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

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