

Day	Time	Place	Intention
16 th December	10.30	Church	Ann Ibison

No Monday morning Masses until further notice.

Sunday readings: year C.

Anniversaries from our List: Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Agnes Nita Foden, Richard Ibison, Thomas Booth, Joseph Dewhurst, John Holden, Maria Helena Cunnington, Thomas Marsh, Mary Catherine Hegarty, Maria Reynolds, Anna McMahon, Joan Taylor and Margaret Bolton.

Attendance & Collection:

Collection - £302.00

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Where	What
16 th Dec.	10.30	Church	Children's Liturgy
20 th Dec.		Church	Carol Service
21 st Dec.	10.30	Church	Infant Nativity Play
			School breaks up for Christmas.
24 th Dec .	5.00pm	Church	Christmas Vigil Mass
25 th Dec.	10.30	Church	Christmas Day Mass



St. Francis Hill Chapel Newsletter

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([newsletter items](#))

In case of emergency & unable to contact Fr. Sony, please ring Fr.
Dutton 01772 782641 or Canon Doyle 01772 782244

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Gaudete Sunday
16th December, 2018**

Parish Mission Statement

Our Parish, guided by the example of our patron, St. Francis, seeks to be a welcoming Catholic Community, by living, sharing and growing in faith. We strive to deepen our own relationship with Christ and meet the needs of others.

Mass Intention for Today is for Ann Ibison.

Christmas Masses:

Hill Chapel - 24th Dec. Vigil Mass at 5.00pm.
25th Dec. Christmas Day Mass at 10.30am.
Claughton – 24th Dec. Vigil Mass at 6.30pm.
25th Dec. Christmas Day Mass at 9.00am.

Cycle of Prayer: Advent/Christmas: Expectant Mothers (especially on Fourth Sunday of Advent).

Sick of the Parish: If you would like the parish to pray for someone who is currently sick, please email news@stfrancis.org.uk or ring Fr. Sony on 01772 865229. It will then be included on the sick list of the Newsletter. Please pray for a parishioner who is sick and in hospital, Mr. Joe Nugent, formerly of Bushell House. We have an area in church where you can write on a card and hang it up if you prefer it not to go on the parish newsletter.

Interpretation of church fathers on the gospel passage of 3rd Sunday of advent. luke.3:10 – 18

John baptizes with water; Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire

REASONS WHY JESUS BAPTIZES WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. St. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA:

After this, John brings forward a second argument, saying, “I need baptize you in water. He shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire”. This too is of great importance for the proof and demonstration that Jesus is God and lord. For it is the sole and peculiar property of the substance that transcends all, to be able to bestow on people the indwelling of the holy spirit and make those that draw near unto it partakers of the divine nature. But this exists in Christ, not as a thing received, nor by communication from another, but as his own and as belonging to his substance, he baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

Christmas Flowers: The Church will be decorated with flowers after Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent, 23rd December. Any ladies willing to come along and help will be made very welcome.

Christmas Fair: Many thanks for all your donations for the tombola and cake stall at the Christmas Fair last weekend. Thanks also to who came to the fair and gave their support. We raised over £200 which will go to Parish funds. Your generosity is very gratefully appreciated.

Food Bank Request: During Advent – and up till the end of December, we will continue to collect for the food bank in Ingol, Preston.

Sr Eileen, who runs the ‘Share It’ project in Ingol was so pleased and grateful for all your generous contributions that you have donated so far and send a very heartfelt thank-you to you all.

If you could donate any food items – packets, tins and leave in the marked boxes at the back of church. Your support really does help to make a difference. M Doran

From the Archives – The Holy Season of Christmas, which marks the nativity of Our Blessed Lord, has for many years also been associated with St. Nicholas; but who was he and where did he come from?

St Nicholas was born during the third century in the then-Greek village of Patara to wealthy parents, who later died in an epidemic. After they died, he used his inheritance to assist the

needy, sick and the suffering, obeying Jesus’s words to “sell what you own and give money to the poor.” He was eventually made Bishop of Myra, which is now part of Turkey.

The Patron Saint became known as Nicholas the Wonderworker for his charitable endeavours and thousands of European churches were dedicated to him, including one built by Roman emperor Justinian at Constantinople (now Istanbul) as early as the 6th century. After the Reformation, devotion to him diminished in Protestant countries. In Holland, however, his legacy lived on as the legend "Sinterklass". Dutch colonists took this tradition with them to America, and the legend was adopted by its English name, Santa Claus. St Nicholas Day is widely celebrated in Europe. In Germany, the joyous day is a time when children are given cookies, candies and gifts. In the Netherlands, the primary occasion for gift-giving is December 5, when St Nicholas’ Feast Day is celebrated.

Of course, we all know that St Nicholas, or Santa Claus, is now kept very busy every Christmas delivering millions of presents to children all around the world.

I wish you all a Happy and Joyous Christmas! Mike Bryan



**Tea, Coffee and biscuits available after the
Sunday Mass
All parishioners, friends and visitors are very welcome**