

Day	Time	Place	Intention
23 rd December	10.30	Church	Members of the D'Arcy & Horan Families
24 th December	5.00pm	Church	Christmas Vigil Mass
25 th December	10.30	Church	Christmas Day Mass

No Monday morning Masses until further notice.

Sunday readings: year C.

Feasts of the Week:

Monday	-	Christmas Eve
Tuesday	-	Christmas Day – Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Wednesday	-	St. Stephen
Thursday	-	St. John
Friday	-	The Holy Innocents
Saturday	-	St. Thomas Becket

Anniversaries from our List: Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Elizabeth Eccles, Thomas Gornall, Joan Ireland, Thomas Rigby, Edith Morris and Anna Margareta Rodgers.

Attendance & Collection:

Attendance on 9th Dec. - 145
Attendance on 16th Dec. - 80 Collection - 227.50

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Where	What
24 th Dec.	5.00pm	Church	Christmas Vigil Mass (Carols 4.40pm.)
25 th Dec.	10.30	Church	Christmas Day Mass
30 th Dec.	10.30	Church	Feast of the Holy Family



St. Francis Hill Chapel Newsletter

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01772 782641 or Canon Doyle 01772 782244

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
23rd 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 deceased members of the D'arcy family and the Horan family.

Today is a day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers.

Christmas Masses:

Hill Chapel - 24th Dec. Vigil Mass at 5.00pm. (Carols at 4.40pm)
25th Dec. Christmas Day Mass at 10.30am.
Claughton – 24th Dec. Vigil Mass at 6.30pm.
25th Dec. Christmas Day Mass at 9.00am.

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 4th Sunday of advent. Lk.1:39 – 44

THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JOHN, ELIZABETH AND MARY. ST. ORIGEN:

Elizabeth, who was filled with the holy spirit at that moment, received the spirit on account of her son. The mother did not inherit the Holy Spirit first. First John, still enclosed in her womb, received the Holy Spirit. Then she too, after her son was sanctified, was filled with the Holy Spirit. You will be able to believe this if you also learn something similar about the saviour. (In a certain number of manuscripts, we have discovered that blessed Mary is said to prophesy. We are not unaware of the fact that, according to other copies of the gospel, Elizabeth speaks these words in prophecy.) Mary also was filled with the Holy Spirit when she began to carry the saviour in her womb. As soon as she received the Holy Spirit, who was the creator of the lord's body, and the son of God began to exist in her womb, she too was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Christmas Flowers: The Church will be decorated with flowers after Mass today. 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. 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**

Wishing you and your family a Peaceful and

Happy Christmas