

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ANNE (HANNAH JANE) RIGBY

For all the cards and gifts for my 90th birthday. I had a nice day at home with a few visits from friends and family, and a birthday cake made by my granddaughter Hannah, aged 10 yrs.

GARDENING: LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH As new life emerges in the natural world, our beautiful grounds need more work to keep them as lovely as they are. Our small team of gardeners need your help. No experience is needed. A sense of humour and working knees would be useful. Meet at 10am on the last Saturday of each month.

REQUEST FOR READERS We are looking for more people to read the readings and bidding prayers at Sunday mass. If you would be willing to help – please contact Mary Doran or Joe Naylor.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE UNWELL If you would like the parish to pray for someone who is currently unwell, please email news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk or ring Father Sony on 01772 865229. It will be then be included in the newsletter. We have an area in church where you can write a prayer intention on a card and hang it up if you prefer it not to go on the parish newsletter.

CHURCH DONATIONS With many people still unable to attend church we still need to maintain an income for maintenance. There are several ways you can still make your contributions including by cheque or direct debit. For details please go to the church website or contact Tom Smyth on 017722 865689.

Attendance and Collection

Sunday 16 May – 36: £99.50

Feast Days this Week:

Monday: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary;

Tuesday: St Justin;

Wednesday: Sts Marcellinus and Peter;

Thursday: St Charles Lwanga and Companions (martyrs);

Saturday: St Boniface.

Daily Mass live at 9.30am from St Clare's in Preston can be accessed on their YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch/>



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

The Hill, Horns Lane

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Clergy: Father Sony Joseph Kadamthodu

www.stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk

Email (for newsletter items only):

news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk

**In case of emergency (and unable to contact Father Sony) please ring
Father Dutton on 01772 782641 or Canon Doyle on 01772 782244**

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

30 May 2021 (Readings: Year B)

Parish Mission Statement

Our Parish, guided by the example of our patron St Francis of Assisi, 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 today is for Teresa Bamber. Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Reginald Thomas Middleton and Sylvia Jean Leach.

Church is now open again for Sunday mass at 10.30am. **Please only attend mass if you feel safe to do so. The dispensation for Sunday mass is still in place.**

SAFETY RULES FOR MASS

Stewards will be on duty to ensure that safety procedures are followed. Full details are on our website. Please do read them. **Face masks will need to be worn as**

specified by the government. **Please follow these guidelines once entering church:**

- * **Sanitise hands** on entry.

- * Please do **keep your distance** – use the high visibility tape on floor as a guide.

- * Place your collection on the collection plate **as you enter**.

- * Please take a mass sheet & newsletter on entry and **take them away when you leave**.

- * At Holy Communion (given in silence):

Please wear a mask as you go up the aisle to communion and remove their mask before they receive the sacrament.

People from upstairs will go first down the right-hand side and return down the opposite aisle to maintain social distancing.

People on the right-hand side will then receive Holy Communion, followed by people on the left-hand side – guided by the stewards.

BIDDING PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, as we put our trust in you, God of all creation, we ask for your help with our prayers.

We pray for Pope Francis as he asks us to make meaningful time for prayer. Help us to find time in our busy schedules to appreciate God's presence and communicate with him through prayer and reflection. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

As the Covid Indian variant begins to rise in areas across the UK, we pray that local governments will continue to tackle the crisis to stop the spread, especially to those that are most vulnerable and have still to receive the vaccine. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who work overseas as missionaries responding to God's call, particularly those who put themselves in danger in doing so. Please keep them safe in your loving care. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord May your love and compassion be constantly with us as we face the week ahead, through Christ our Lord Amen.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

My final article this month, focuses on the National Marian Shrine, in Knock, County Mayo, Ireland. The 'Story of Knock' began on the evening of 21 August 1879 at about eight o'clock when Mary Byrne, who was from the village, was going home from church with the priest's housekeeper, Mary

McLoughlin. Mary Byrne stopped suddenly when she saw three life-size figures on the gable of the church. She ran home to tell her parents and soon others from the village gathered. The witnesses said they saw an apparition of Our Blessed Lady together with St Joseph, St John, and St John the Baptist, on the wall of the church. Behind them and a little to the left of Saint John was a plain altar. On the altar was a cross and a lamb, with angels around it. A farmer, about half a mile away from the scene, later described what he saw as a large globe of golden light above and around the gable, which was circular in appearance.

Following the apparition, miraculous cures began to be reported. The first was that of Delia Gordon, a 12-year-old girl who had been deaf and suffered horrific pain. It is said that her parents took her to the shrine where she knelt before the place where the apparition was seen. Her mother picked a piece of cement from the gable wall, blessed it, and put it on her daughter's ear. The pain went immediately, and she was no longer deaf. An ecclesiastical Commission of inquiry was established on 8 October 1879, the evidence of witnesses was taken in the ensuing months. The deliberations of the commission, referred only to the occurrence on 21 August 1879. The evidence, which was the commission's duty to record, satisfied all the members and was deemed trustworthy. During the years that followed many people claim to have been cured at Knock, and many crutches and walking sticks are left at the spot where the apparition occurred. Each Irish diocese makes an annual pilgrimage to the Shrine and, every August, the nine-day Knock novena attracts pilgrims from all over the world. Many Popes including, Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul II and, more recently in August 2018, Pope Francis, have visited the site. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was there in June 1993. Ireland's National Eucharistic Congress was held at the shrine in 2011, an estimated 13,000 pilgrims attended.

Though it remained for almost 100 years a major Irish pilgrimage site, Knock only established itself as a world pilgrimage site in the last quarter of the twentieth century. This was largely due to the work of its long-time parish priest, Monsignor James Horan, who presided over the major rebuilding of the site, which included a large new Basilica alongside the old church. The complex now incorporates five churches including the Apparition Chapel, Parish Church and Basilica, a Religious Books Centre, Caravan and Camping Park, a hotel, and the Knock Museum.

Monsignor Horan also secured millions of pounds of State aid from the Irish government to build a major airport near Knock. If you would like to visit Knock, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, Ryanair return flights from Liverpool in June are currently on sale for approximately £20!

Mike Bryan