

**Feast Days this Week:**

Monday: St Athanasius

Tuesday: Sts Philip and James

Wednesday: English Martyrs

**Cycle of Prayer During Easter:**

We pray for new members of the Church; Human Work – St Joseph the Worker (1 May); Vocations (8 May); Survivors of sexual abuse (especially on 17 May); Right use of the media on Communications Day (29 May); the Church, especially at Pentecost (5 June).

**Attendance and Collection:**

**17 April:** Attendance 77 | Collection £239.00 | Holy Places £23.50

**Parishioners Who Are Unwell:** If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please email [news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk](mailto:news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk) or ring Father Sony on 01772 865229 for inclusion 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.

**Church Opening:**

Church will be open roughly school hours for private prayer from Tuesday 19 April.

**Cloughton & Hill Chapel visit the relics of Saint Bernadette:** this will take place on 22 September 2022. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has arranged for the relics of Saint Bernadette to be brought to England this year. Her relics will be welcomed to St Peter's Cathedral from the evening of 22 September through to the late morning of 23 September. The relics will also be visiting Carlisle. Mindful that the Diocesan Chief Patroness is Our Lady of Lourdes, we must look on this as a very special moment in the life of the Diocese. This event provides an invitation for all of us to know the story of Saint Bernadette and to give her a place in our devotion. I suggest re-reading her story. She has much to teach us in the ways of humility and trust. Many of you may recall the occasion when the Cathedral welcomed the relics of St Therese of Lisieux. Unfortunately, this forthcoming occasion is much shorter and will need more careful planning.

**Newsletter Co-ordinator:** we are **urgently** looking for someone to update the newsletter weekly from the start of June. Support will be given. Please speak to Mike Bryan or Mary Doran if you can help.



# St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

The Hill, Horns Lane

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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

**1 May 2022 (Readings: Year C)**

### *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.*

### **Today Mass is for the people of the parish.**

There will be Mass on Tuesday at 9.30am at Hill Chapel. All are welcome.

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Michael D'Arcy, Dorothy Walton, Mary Josephine Wood and William Raymond Shorrocks. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

### **Safety Rules For Mass**

**Although safety rules have been restricted, we are only a small church and we do want everyone to be kept safe and Covid-free while attending Hill Chapel.** Many thanks for your co-operation.

\* Please sanitise your hands on entry.

**\* Please wear a mask when entering and leaving church and when receiving Holy Communion. Masks can be removed while sitting in your bench.**

### **Parish Theatre Trip**

To see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat! A parish trip is being planned to see this fabulous show at Blackpool Opera House on Wednesday 27 July at 14.30. Numbers are needed to pre book so if any parishioners are interested please could you inform Bernadette Coulthurst on 07935021374. It will be a really fun trip to see a show with a great story, colourful characters and brilliant songs.

### **Confirmation and Communion**

Bishop Paul will be coming to Hill Chapel to minister the Sacrament of Confirmation to pupils in Yrs 5, 6, 7, and 8 on Tuesday 12 July at 7.00 p.m. Preparation for receiving the Sacrament will start in June. If you know of anyone who has not been confirmed and would like to receive the sacrament – please contact Mary Doran. Please note that the date for First Holy Communion this year is Sunday 19 June at 11.30am.

### **News from School: Dates for Your Diary**

Our children will be visiting school for the parish mass on Tuesdays as follows:

**3 May:** Parlick Class

**10 May:** Fairsnape Class

**17 May:** Beacon Class

The next Family Mass will take place on **Sunday 22 May**.

We would like to invite all parishioners to our Queen's Jubilee Party on **Friday 27 May**. Bring a picnic and we will provide the entertainment and welcome! Our school band and choir will be performing and we have a special guest entertainer singing the old favourites for us all. The outside street party will begin at 1.00pm. Save the date and spread the word to the community!

### **From the Archives**

In last week's newsletter we were informed of the forthcoming visit to Lancaster Cathedral on 22 & 23 September, of the relics of St Bernadette. As the Chief Diocesan Patroness is Our Lady of Lourdes, this will be a very special occasion in the life of the Diocese. To prepare ourselves for the visit, Bishop Swarbrick

suggests that we re-read the story of Bernadette and, with this in mind, I attach below a short account that I used in February to mark St. Bernadette's Feast Day.

Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in the small village of Lourdes in southern France. Bernadette was born on January 7, 1844. Her parents were very poor, and she was the first of nine children. As a toddler, Bernadette contracted cholera and suffered extreme asthma. Unfortunately, she lived the rest of her life in poor health. On Thursday, February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood, when a very beautiful lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle. The woman wore blue and white and smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray. Bernadette later described the woman as *uo petito damizelo*, meaning: a small young lady. Though her sister and friend claimed they were unable to see her, Bernadette knew what she saw was real. On February 18, Bernadette said 'the vision' asked her to return to the grotto each day for a fortnight. With each visit, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary and the period of daily visions became known as *la Quinzaine sacrée* meaning: holy fortnight. On February 25, Bernadette claimed to have had a life-changing vision. The vision had told her 'To drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it and to eat the herb that grew there, as an act of penance'. The next day, the grotto's muddy waters had been cleared and fresh clear water flowed. On March 2, at the thirteenth of the apparitions, Bernadette told her family the lady said, 'a chapel should be built on the site'. During her sixteenth visit, on March 25, Bernadette claimed to have experienced the vision for over an hour. She said that she had asked the lady her name, but her question was only met with a smile. Bernadette asked again, three more times, and finally the woman said, 'I am the Immaculate Conception.'

Following the miracles, Bernadette asked the local priest to build a chapel at the site of her visions. However, following the construction of the first chapel, Bernadette decided she did not like the attention she was getting and went to the hospice school run by the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, where she was taught to read and write. On July 29, 1866, Bernadette took the religious habit of a postulant and joined the Sisters of Charity at their motherhouse in Nevers. Bernadette spent the rest of her life there working as an infirmiry assistant, and later a sacristan. Sadly, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone in her right knee and was unable to take part in convent life. She died in the Sainte Croix (Holy Cross) Infirmary of the Convent of Saint-Gildard at the age of thirty-five on April 16, 1879, while praying the holy rosary. St Bernadette was canonised in 1933 by Pope Pius XI. St. Bernadette's body is displayed in a purpose-built crystal coffin in the chapel of St. Gildard at the Sisters' of Charity in Nevers, France.

**Mike Bryan**