

Attendance: 19th June – Attendance - 51 (10.30 Mass)

140 – First Communion Mass , Collection - £229.00

26th June – Attendance – 64, Collection - £113,00

Day for Life - £11.00 Peter's Pence - £11.00

Garden Collection

A great amount of time, effort (and money) has been spent on improving the path around the graveyard and keeping the gardens looking so beautiful. Many thanks to all our volunteers. There is a collection box at the back of church to help towards the cost of all the improvements made and to help towards the cost of continuing to improve the path around the graveyard. Any contributions very gratefully appreciated.

Feast Days this Week:

Mon: St Elizabeth of Portugal

Tues: St Anthony Mary Zaccaria

Sat: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Cycle of Prayer during Summer

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews, Human Life, those who suffer Persecution, Oppression and denial of Human Rights. Seafarers.

Parishioners Who are Unwell

If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please notify Father Sony on 01772 865229 for inclusion in the Bidding Prayers or newsletter. We also have an area in Church where you can write a prayer intention on a card and hang up if you prefer.

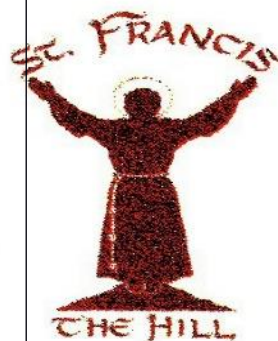
Diary Dates

3rd July – Family Mass in the Open Air

12th July – Sacrament of Confirmation – 7.00 p.m.

19th July – Year Six Leavers Mass – 9.30 a.m.

27th July – Parish Theatre Trip



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

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Clergy: Fr Sony Joseph
Kadamthodu

www.stfrancisgoosnargh.org

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd July – 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's Mass is for Veronica Holden

Today we are celebrating Mass in the open air in the school grounds – weather permitting. This is also the last family mass of the school year. We welcome our children, their parents and our staff.

We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time,, especially Veronica Holden, Mary Monica Wilding, Elizabeth Philomena Littler, Francis Anthony Gornall, Monsignor Edward Gould, John Kenneth Crawley and John Arthur Wells. We also remember Dennis Ibison who has recently died. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.*

There will be no mass on the following Tuesdays: July 5th and July 12th.

Safety Rules for Mass:

Although safety rules have been restricted, we are only a small church and do want everyone to be kept safe:

- Please sanitise your hands on entry
- If preferred - please feel free to wear a mask on entry, on receiving Holy Communion and when leaving church.
- Please follow the one-way system to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion – guided by the stewards.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Twenty-eight children will be confirmed by Bishop Paul at a special Confirmation Service at Hill Chapel on Tuesday, June 12th at 7.00p.m.

These children are currently preparing for the sacrament with the help and support of their parents. In each session parents are working with their children, with the support of the catechist.

As we have so many Confirmandi, all the downstairs benches will be taken up by the candidates, their sponsors and their immediate family. The Parish are warmly invited to attend the celebration and there will be seating available upstairs and at the back of church.

In this week's session, the preparation was on the Gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Joy, the Right Judgement, Reverence and Wonder and Awe. *We pray that we may all be filled with these gifts, not just at Confirmation but all our lives through. Please remember our Confirmation candidates in your prayers*

From the Archives

The 1st, July 2022, marked the 431st anniversary of the martyrdom of Blessed George Beesley, who was born in 1562 to a staunchly Catholic family, in a downstairs room of what is now our parish presbytery. Queen Elizabeth 1st was on the throne of England, and these were difficult and dangerous times for Catholics. In his late teens, George, who was determined to become a priest, fled this country to be trained at the seminary in Rheims. He was ordained in 1587. Shortly after becoming a priest, and despite knowing the dangers

associated with the priesthood, he returned to England. For three years he travelled around the countryside celebrating mass in the 'safe' homes of many Catholic families. However, he was soon discovered by Richard Topcliffe, a landowner, and Member of Parliament, who was notorious as one of the Crown's chief enforcers of the penal laws against the practice of Catholicism. George was imprisoned in the Martin Tower, at the Tower of London and was subsequently hanged, and his body quartered, in front of a large crowd, on Fleet Street on 1st July 1591.

Whilst in his prison cell George carved the following inscription from psalm 42, in Latin, on his cell wall: "*Like the deer that yearns for springs of water, so my soul is yearning for you, God*" A copy of the inscription, which is shortly to be cleaned and restored, has a central position in our church garden.

Two other Martyrs are associated with this parish, William Marsden who was born on a farm near Beacon Fell, was educated at Rivington Grammar School and then at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford. He too was ordained in Rheims but, almost immediately after coming back to England, he was discovered on the Isle of White and was martyred on 25th April 1586.

It is also thought that St John Wall may have been born close to Hill Chapel, at Chingle Hall. He became a Franciscan priest and was known as Fr. Joachim of St. Ann. Most of his time was spent at Harvington Hall, a Catholic 'safehouse', in Worcestershire. However, he was apprehended, arrested, and subsequently put to death for being a priest, on 22nd August 1679. Harvington Hall in Worcestershire is a moated manor house and has the largest number of priest hiding holes in the country; it is well worth a visit. See <http://www.harvingtonhall.com>

In 1849, the year when the Catholic Hierarchy was restored in the U.K., Fredrick William Faber wrote the hymn, 'Faith of Our Fathers', in memory of those Catholic men and women martyred during Tudor times. Today, we are so fortunate to be able to attend mass freely and without restriction. This is due, in no small part, to those martyrs who were willing to sacrifice their own lives to preserve and maintain the Catholic faith in this country, a precious freedom we must practise and uphold.

Mike Bryan