

Feast Days this Week:

Monday: St Anthony Mary Zaccaria

Tuesday: St Maria Goretti

Friday: St Augustine Zhao Rong

Saturday: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Your prayers are requested for parishioner Frank O'Donnell who died last weekend. May he rest in peace.

Wednesday 7 July is the **anniversary of Monsignor Edward Gould**, former parish priest at Hill Chapel between 2006 and 2008. He is remembered still with great warmth by many parishioners.

Cycle of Prayer:

We pray for: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; for human life; for those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; for Europe, especially on St Benedict (11 July), St Bridget (23 July) and St Teresa Benedicta (9 Aug); and for seafarers on Sea Sunday (11 July).

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 20 June – attendance: 36 | collection: £92.50 (Day for Life £10.30)

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

Goosnargh, Preston PR3 2FJ

Telephone: 01772 865229

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**

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4 July 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 Peter Corbett.

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Florence Hildred, Peter Corbett and Mary Monica Wilding.

Our **First Communion Celebration** will take place today at 11.30 a.m, following this mass. It will be especially for the First Communicants and their families. Nine children will be receiving the sacrament: Lucy Brice, Max Coupe, Blake Harwood, Melody Harwood, Amelia Hollinghurst, Francesca Hollinghurst, Skye Luke, Eva Peacock and Frankie Rossall. **Please remember them in your prayers.** Both the 10.30 mass and the First Communion mass will be offered by Father Stuart Chapple, who was ordained on 26 June 2021. We welcome Father Chapple to our church.

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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

After more than 130 years working with the Preston community, The Little Sisters of the Poor announced in 2016 that they would be leaving their Jeanne Jugan Residence in Fulwood the following year. The Mother Provincial, Mother Caroline Emmanuel said: “It is with great sadness and regret that the Little Sisters of the Poor have decided that they will be leaving Preston. This has been a very difficult decision for the Sisters, but due to the Community getting older and that there are much fewer Sisters, we now feel that we are unable to continue our mission in Preston”. Upon hearing the news, Bishop Michael Campbell said, “Since their arrival in 1881, the sisters have made an immeasurable contribution to the care of the elderly and dying in the Preston area”. The Little Sisters originally moved into the building in 1897. They changed its name from Springfield House to the Jeanne Jugan Residence in honour of their founder St Jeanne Jugan. Those of you who visited the residence shortly before the sisters left may have noticed that the interior was looking rather tired and in need of refurbishment. However, there was a real sense of history and charm to the place and the Order was keen to ensure continuity of care at the home.

The building has now been purchased by HBS Healthcare. A statement from the company said: “Spiral Health, CIC, assumed operational responsibilities

for Springfield Manor Gardens – Formerly Little Sisters of The Poor – on 15 December 2017. Having signed a 15-year lease with the new owners of the building, HBS Healthcare, Spiral Health is excited to continue the excellent care that the Little Sisters have provided Preston with for over 130 years.”

A spokesman for the firm said they had picked the name Springfield Manor Gardens as the original name for the care home was Springfield House. Work on the site has already begun and, in addition to structural improvements, out will go the mismatched furniture and in will come a physio gym and a new hair salon. Some facilities will be moved around – for example, the hall that hosted musical performances and plays will be transformed into bedrooms. The company says that the finished rooms will be calming and tastefully decorated. All the renovations are expected to be complete within the next six months. HBS Healthcare is currently in the process of building a purpose-built facility at the rear of the main building in an unused part of the grounds, to house a GP surgery. This will provide easier access to doctors for residents of both Springfield Manor Gardens and the surrounding area, without compromising the provision of care, facilities of the building, or the aesthetics of the property and gardens. It is understood that Lytham Road Surgery, Mediacom Surgery and ‘The Surgery’ – comprising Beach Drive Surgery, Moor Park and Dr Robb and Robb (with the latter two already merging) forming together into a new super-surgery. Whilst it is sad to see the sisters leave Preston it is good that the work of caring for the sick and elderly, albeit from a commercial provider, will continue on the site.

Finally, **the words of the Mother Provincial on leaving the Jeanne Jugan Residence**, “Jeanne is a Saint for every age as she challenges young people to give themselves to God and neighbour. She is a role model for those who care for the poor, the sick and the ageing. To those who feel anxious in these tough economic times, she offers an invitation to live the Beatitudes, trusting that God will provide. She challenges all of us to do everything through love. A friend of the poor — a Gospel witness for our time — a Saint for old age and every age!”

Mike Bryan

READINGS

Ezekiel 2:2-5

First reading

These rebels shall know that there is a prophet among them

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, ‘Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, “The Lord says this.” Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.’

Second reading

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

The Lord's power is at its best in weakness

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, ‘My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.’ So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ’s sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn1:14,12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 6:1-6

'A prophet is only despised in his own country'

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them

were astonished when they heard him. They said, ‘Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?’ And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house’; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

HOMILY

Many many moons ago, from the beginning of Advent 1982, until Holy Week 1983, I had a brief and inglorious career with the Catholic Missionary Society, conducting parish missions in various parts of England. A mission included eight hours a day of door knocking, ringing the doorbells of people whose addresses appeared on the parish census lists. It never took long in any parish to realise that these lists were hopelessly out of date, many people having moved or died, whilst many of those who were found were at best indifferent, at worst hostile.

Some priests revelled in the work. One of our number, a cheerful Irishman, on approaching a block of flats, would press all the buttons at once to see who might be unearthed. I, on the other hand, tended to press the bell very gently, count ten, and then high tail it away as fast as my legs would carry me.

To me, knocking on the doors of fifty total strangers a day was the nearest thing to hell that I could imagine. Indeed, one night, dreaming that I was to spend eternity doing parish missions, I woke myself up with a cry of dismay. I mention this because, in the course of one mission, one of my colleagues found himself pondering Our Lord’s words from today’s Gospel: “He was amazed at their lack of faith”. I, meanwhile, had that question of Jesus’ constantly running through my head: “When the Son of Man comes, will He find any faith on earth?”

If that was the situation almost forty years ago, how much more difficult must it be today? Is Jesus still amazed at people’s lack of faith, and what can be done about it?

In all honesty, we need to admit that the Church hasn't always done the cause of the Kingdom, and of Jesus, a lot of favours. The clergy sexual abuse scandal has caused, and continues to cause, an immense amount of harm. Then, in addition to these ghastly crimes which men knew that they were committing, there are the equally destructive horrors perpetrated by people who genuinely believed that they were doing God's will, in the residential schools in Ireland and Canada and, we shall probably also learn, in the USA. Small wonder if people are saying "Well, if that's the face of Christ, then He's an ugly so-and-so, and I really don't want to know Him".

These dreadful events have, in recent years, overshadowed the good which the Church has done over the centuries, and continues to do, in the fields of health care, education, development, the feeding of the hungry, and the defence of the oppressed and the marginalised. It is very easy, but wrong, to conclude that the Church always does more harm than good, especially when a writer such as Hilary Mantel can make a great deal of money—and be given a damehood—by deliberately distorting history by making St. Thomas More into a torturer, and the torturer Thomas Cromwell into a hero chiefly, as she admits herself, to express her hatred of, and to damage the reputation of, the Church of her birth.

So, will Jesus still be amazed at people's lack of faith, and, when He comes again, will He find any faith on earth? Perhaps more to the immediate point, what can be done to reawaken faith? There is constant talk of evangelisation, but nobody seems willing, or able, to explain what it means. There was even a Decade of Evangelisation, which went down like the proverbial lead balloon. So what is to be done?

Perhaps we need to pay more heed to St. Paul's words, in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, as he ponders his own shortcomings, weaknesses, struggles and failures, and concludes "It is when I am weak that I am strong". We must remember also, again with St. Paul, that we are preaching a crucified Christ who will always be, to many, a folly and a stumbling block. In other words, we must be a humble Church, deeply rooted in Christ, and showing to the world the true face of Christ. There must be no trace of arrogance or superiority, and we need to recall the words of Pope St. Paul VI in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*: "The modern world listens to witnesses rather than to teachers, and if it listens to teachers, it is because they are also witnesses". Let us remember too that it is when we are weak that we are strong, and that success and failure are not always what they seem.