

### Attendance and Collection

19th Nov Attendance 76 Collection £191.70

26th Nov Attendance 60 Collection £152.00

### 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.

### Hill Chapel Library

We have a box at the back of church with a variety of religious books belonging to parishioners which other people may like to read. If you would like to borrow any of the books or add some books of your own for other members of our parish to use - you are more than welcome. Please do fill in the form when taking and returning the books. Many thanks.

### Feast Days

Mon – St. Damasus 1

Tues – Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wed – St. Lucy

Thurs – St. John the Cross

### School Events

**Family Mass TODAY** followed by Christmas Fair – Sunday, 10 th December  
**Pre-school carols** around the tree – Mon 18 th December, 1.30pm – in church  
**Key Stage Two Advent Service** – Tues 12 th December, 6pm – in church.  
We would like to invite the Parish to any of the above events.  
We really would love to see you there.

### Christmas Masses

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - Vigil mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent @ 4pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - No morning mass. Vigil mass for Christmas Day  
4.00pm carols @ 3.30pm

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day mass 10.30am



## St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

The Hill, Horns Lane, Goosnargh  
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## Second Sunday of Advent

**10th December - Readings - Year B**

**Sunday Mass - 10.30am**

### ***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 Intention is for George and Winifred Ibison**

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially  
Lawrence Ibison, Bill Bamber, Shirley Walker  
Constance Mary Barber & Frank Morris.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially  
Winifred Ibison

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December @ 9.00 am Adoration and Mass @ 9.30am.

We welcome into our church family **Rory Ibison** who will be baptised during mass today. May God's light shine on her always.

Tea and Coffee are served at the back of church after Sunday Mass.

### **Foodbank Collection**

From now until Christmas we will be collecting for **Ribble Valley Foodbank**

Our local foodbank is currently short of :

**Tinned vegetables ,tinned potatoes, sponge puddings,long life milk,soap,shaving foam/razors,tooth brushes, and laundry liquid/powder/gel.**

A box will be at the back of church to put items in. Many thanks for your support.

**Christmas Fair** – **TODAY** after mass.

### **From the Archives - Christmas Carols**

Dating back to as early as the 13th Century, Christmas carols have become an integral part of our annual Christmas celebrations. However, the roots and connotations of many favourite carols, reveal their surprising histories and interesting meanings. An obvious example is 'Once in Royal David's City' - a song designed to teach children the story of the birth of Jesus. Its straight-talking lyrics and simple melody perfectly retell the traditional Christmas story. There are also religious messages within carols that do not necessarily allude to the birth of Jesus. For example, 'The Holly and the Ivy' seems to also symbolise Jesus' suffering as the redness of the berries reflect his blood and the sharpness of the holly imitates his crown of thorns. However, there is one carol that some believe buries its religious significance deep below the surface: 'The 12 days of Christmas'.

At first glance, this carol seems nothing more than a historic remnant of a parlour game, used to entertain children and test memory. However, despite the rules surrounding Catholic worship being relaxed by King George III in 1780, a lot of

animosity towards Catholics remained. This led some to believe that the carol, which was written in that year, may be secretly coded to teach people about the Faith whilst avoiding persecution. I stress, however, that there is no historical proof of this theory, but it is interesting to see how each verse is said to break down:

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of man's fall from grace

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the Ten Commandments

11 Pipers Piping = the 11 faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

The partridge in the pear tree, naturally, represents Jesus Christ.

Despite the fragility of the evidence supporting this theory, I suspect that in the future, whenever you sing this carol you will try to remember the religious significance of each verse.

Mike Bryan