

Feast Days This Week:

Friday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Attendance and Collection:

6 March: Attendance 43 | Collection £76.00

Parishioners Who Are Unwell: If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please email 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 Daily: Church will be open Monday to Friday throughout February (during term time; roughly school hours) for people to call in during the day to say a prayer. It will also be open all day on Saturday, and on Sunday afternoons.

A reminder to all Goosnargh and Whittingham Heritage members...

Our next meeting takes place at Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston, PR1 2RE on Monday 21 March. This starts at the earlier time of 6.30pm. Please meet at the Archives. If anyone requires a lift please meet at the Grapes Inn, Goosnargh, at 5.45pm. A few car places may be available.

Maria

Confirmation: Bishop Paul will be coming to Hill Chapel to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to pupils in Years 5, 6, 7, and 8 on Tuesday, 12 July at 7.00p.m. Preparation for receiving the Sacrament will start in June. Further details will be given nearer the time.

Easter Mass Times

Palm Sunday: 10.30am at Hill Chapel | 9am and 6.30pm at Claughton

Maundy Thursday: 6.30pm at Claughton

Good Friday: 3pm at Hill Chapel

Easter Vigil: 7pm at Claughton

Easter Sunday: 10.30am at Hill Chapel | 9am Claughton

Lent Series 2022 – For the Greater Glory of God

A series of events have been planned during Lent to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the conversion of St Ignatius of Loyola. The evenings will be a mixture of talks, videos, prayer and reflection and will be held at St Wilfrid's Church in Preston. Further details on the noticeboard at the back of church.

St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter



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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 IN LENT

20 March 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.

Mass today is for June and Francis Gornall.

There is no mass this coming Tuesday.

Next Sunday (27 March) there will be a special Family Mass for Mother's Day.

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Dominic Flynn, June Gornall, John Richardson, Mary Josephine Clarkson and Joseph Gornall. *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.**

Volunteers Needed Please

Newsletter Co-ordinator: we are looking for someone to update the newsletter weekly. Grateful thanks to Nikki Brice for doing such an excellent job.

Opening and Closing Church: it is lovely to be able to pop into church during the week but we do need some further help to enable church to be kept open daily. Thank you to Jenny Rossall and Nikki Brice who open and close the church daily during term-time. We are looking for someone to open and close church on a Saturday and to help when school is closed.

If you could help with either of the above requests – please see Father Sony or a member of the Parish Council.

Ukraine Appeal

This week we raised another £120 for the Ukrainian appeal, making this a total of £446.26 collected by our small Parish. Many thanks for your support and your generosity. Special thanks to Maria Peel for baking cakes (with the Ukrainian flag on!). Cakes will be on sale after Mass this week. The money has been sent to Cafod who have their sister organisation – Caritas Ukraine – already working over in Ukraine, helping people affected by the conflict.

From the Archives

I am sure that at this very tragic and catastrophic time in Europe, the Ukrainian people and the plight they are undergoing, are at the centre of all our thoughts and prayers. At the time of writing, Russian troops have just advanced into the capital city of Kyiv and many innocent lives have already been lost. It is very sad to think that the lessons of history have not been learned and that man's inhumanity to man continues in such a brutal and totally unnecessary manner.

At the conclusion of last Sunday's Angelus prayers in St Peter's Square, Pope Francis directly addressed President Putin for an end to the invasion of Ukraine that has devastated several cities in the European nation. The Holy Father implored Mr. Putin, "In the name of God, I ask you: stop this massacre!" He noted the devastation wreaked by Russian forces in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, named after the Virgin Mary, whom his congregation had just petitioned in the Angelus prayers. The Pope said, "We have just prayed to the Virgin Mary. This weekend, the city that bears her name, Mariupol, has become a city martyred by the ruinous war that is devastating Ukraine. Faced with the barbarism of the killing of children, and of innocent and defenceless citizens, there are no strategic reasons that hold up: the only thing to be done is to cease the unacceptable armed aggression before the city is reduced to a cemetery. With an aching heart I join my voice to that of the common people, who implore an end to the war. In the name of God, let the cries of those who suffer be heard and let the bombings and attacks cease! Let there be a real and decisive focus on negotiation and let the humanitarian corridors be effective and safe." A very powerful statement echoing the thoughts and prayers of all God-loving people throughout the world.

Ukraine is the seventh-largest nation in Europe and the second largest among the East Slavs after Russia. It has a population of 44.3 million and a land mass of 233,062 square miles. Approximately seventy percent of the population are Orthodox Christians and a large percentage of these attend church regularly. In normal times, the economy of Ukraine could best be described as an emerging free market. Although agriculture still plays an important role in the country's economy, manufacturing is now the largest provider of employment and wealth across the nation. It is interesting to note that Ukraine has one of the largest natural gas reserves in the world, estimated at 1.1 trillion cubic meters. It is among the major mineral producers in the world, boasting over 7,500 different deposits containing some 90 individual minerals. It has also recently developed a complete cycle of aerospace production. Perhaps not surprising, therefore, to see the attraction of the country to President Putin, a power-hungry, ruthless Russian dictator eager to turn the clock back to the days of the USSR.

I end this article with Pope Francis's prayer for peace in Ukraine:

'Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" With war everything is lost. Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace. Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last. Amen.'

Mike Bryan