

INGOL FOOD BANK

For many people, life this year is harder than ever. We are continuing our collections for Ingol Food bank in Preston. If you would be able to give any tins or packets of food – please leave them in a carrier bag in the box at the back of church or in the box by the presbytery if church is not open. Many thanks for supporting the needy and vulnerable during these difficult times.

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 4 April (Easter Sunday) – 62: £223.09

Cycle of Prayer During Easter

We pray for:

New members of the church

Vocations (25 April)

Human work (St Joseph the Worker) on 1 May

Right use of the media on Communications Day (16 May)

The Church, especially at Pentecost (23 May)

Feast Days this Week

Wednesday – St Anselm, bishop and doctor

Friday – St George, patron of England

Saturday – St Adalbert, bishop & martyr and St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest & martyr

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

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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

18 April 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 Reynold Woods. Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Vincent Joseph Wells, Annie Heslington, Terence Joseph Gillow, and John Frederick Holden.

Please remember in your prayers **Patricia (Pat) Richardson**, who passed away on the 22 March 2021, aged 87 years. Pat is the loving wife of the late Jack, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. A Requiem mass took place at Alston Lane followed by interment at Hill Chapel on Tuesday 6 April. Pat was a very active parishioner at Hill Chapel along with her husband, Jack. Pat did the flowers and read at Mass. Pat spent her later years at Alston Lane after losing her husband. May she rest in peace.

Church is now open again for Sunday mass at 10.30am. **Please only attend mass if you feel safe to do so. The dispensation for Sunday mass is still in place.**

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.

BIDDING PRAYERS

As we celebrate our faith on this Third Sunday of Easter, help us to gain strength from the risen Lord who will walk with us in our present and into our future, whatever it might hold. And so we bring our prayers before our Heavenly Father, knowing that God's love is beyond anything we can ever imagine.

We pray to our risen Lord for Pope Francis. May he be a living symbol of Easter joy and a sign of hope to our world. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

As we emerge from lockdown, we pray to our risen Lord for the government, scientists and all in positions of leadership. May they make the right decisions for the benefits of all as we move towards a new post-Covid reality. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the members of our parish here at Hill Chapel, especially all those who are in self-isolation. As we gradually begin to come together again, may we all work together to ensure that our parish is a living message of peace to the people around us. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your never-ending presence in our lives. May your love and compassion be constantly with us as we face the week ahead, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

On Friday next, 23 April, we celebrate the Feast Day of St George, the patron saint of England. With little primary evidence, much of what has been written and recorded about this saint is based on tradition and legend. For example, the myth portraying the saint dressed in a white tunic bedecked with a red cross, astride his stallion and slaying a dragon as he rescues a fair maiden, must be taken simply as a metaphor of good against evil.

The story achieved mass circulation when it was printed in 1483 by Caxton in a book called *The Golden Legend*. Pope Gelasius perhaps summed up the saint best when he said that George is one of the saints 'whose names are rightly revered among us, but whose actions are known only to God.' The 23 April was named as Saint George's day in 1222.

Traditionally identified with the widely held English ideals of honour, bravery, and gallantry it is quite ironic to know that he wasn't English at all. It is said that he was born in Cappadocia, an area which is now in Turkey. He lived in the 3rd century AD and his parents were Christian. The family later moved to live in Palestine where George became a Roman soldier. After witnessing the persecution of Christians by the Romans George protested and was imprisoned and tortured. He did, however, stay true to his faith and he was beheaded at Lydda in Palestine.

The 23 April also happens to be the birthday of William Shakespeare so it's no surprise that Saint George turns up a total of 18 times in Shakespeare's plays, most famously in Henry's rallying cry to his troops before the battle of Harfleur, in Henry V: 'Follow your spirit, and upon this charge Cry God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'

Mike Bryan

First reading

Acts 3:13-15,17-19

You killed the prince of life: God, however, raised him from the dead

Peter said to the people: ‘You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

‘Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 4:2,4,7,9

Second reading

1 John 2:1-5

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and the world's

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.
We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, ‘I know him’,
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Lk24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:35-48

It is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you!’ In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, ‘Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.’ And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, ‘This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.’ He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.’

3rd Sunday of Easter 2021

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

Many many moons ago, speaking to a gaggle of urchins in the now long defunct Junior Seminary, I asked “Which is the longest season in the Church’s year?” One smart youth raised his hand and replied “Ordinary Time”. Clever so-and –so! No wonder he is now Vicar General of the Diocese.

At one level, he was correct. The greater part of the year is indeed what we term “Ordinary Time”, when vestments are common or garden green, and

we are not focusing on any particular event in the life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord. Ordinary Time, though, is not usually reckoned as a season, and it was not what I had in mind.

The answer for which I was searching was Easter, which is, to some people's surprise, longer than Lent, the latter appearing to be endless because of the penances we undertake. The season of resurrection, the season of joy, is longer than the season of penitence and mourning.

Indeed, there is a sense in which it is always Easter because Christ is risen. Notice that we say "Christ IS risen" rather than "Christ HAS risen, because the resurrection is a present state, and not only a past event.

Every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection: every Mass is a celebration of the resurrection. Yet there is a note of caution to be sounded: every Mass makes present, not only the resurrection of the Lord, but also His Passion and death. Those events of Passion, death, and resurrection are interwoven, inseparable: we cannot have one without the others.

We live in the light of the risen Christ, but we live also in the mystery of His suffering and death. We are the Easter People, as Pope St. John Paul II was fond of reminding us, but we are also the Ash Wednesday People, the Holy Thursday night People, the Good Friday People.

These are not simply truths which we profess: they also play out in our lives. We too have our seasons of wilderness wandering, of Gethsemane anguish, of Calvary darkness, as well as our seasons of Easter joy. They may coincide with the Church's seasons, or they may not. Often they are woven together, suffering shot through with joy: celebration tempered by sorrow.

It is important that we recognise them for what they are—sharings in the suffering, in the death, and in the resurrection of the Lord. All of these Christ-events are present realities, and all of them find a place in the pilgrim journey of His people.

There is another event too which we must not neglect. The season of Easter leads us to Pentecost, the feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are also the Pentecost People, filled, guided, and moved by the Holy Spirit; though we should never forget that the Spirit came not only in the wind and flame of Pentecost, but also in the gentle breathing of the Lord on Easter Sunday evening, when he breathed on the disciples and declared "Receive the Holy Spirit".

So we are at one and the same time the Lent People, the Passiontide People, the Easter People and the Pentecost People. I might add that we are also the Advent People, constantly looking forward to the return of Christ in glory, but also seeking to recognise His present coming in the people and events of everyday. And in deference to that canny youth of yesteryear, perhaps it should also be said that we are the Ordinary Time People, living in the

presence of, and sharing the life of, the God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the mundane apparent non-events of everyday life.