

**Feast Days this Week:**

Tuesday: Sts Chad and Cedd

Thursday: Sts Simon and Jude

Saturday: The Blessed Virgin Mary

**Cycle of Prayer for the Autumn of Ordinary Time:** We pray for: the harvest and care of creation; students and teachers on Education Day; the spreading of the Gospel on Home Mission Day and World Mission Day (24 Oct); justice and peace on Harvest Fast Day; prisoners and dependants; victims of war on Remembrance Day (14 Nov); and young people on Christ the King (21 Nov).

**Parishioners Who Are Unwell:** If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please email [news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk](mailto: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 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 3 October: attendance 46 | Collection £313.00

Sunday 10 October: Attendance 46 | Collection £154.70

Cafod £128.00

Donations for Creation Celebration £83.40

**Sunday Obligation:** Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England on 19 July: We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. It is our continuing judgement that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday. **For more reading visit** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/sunday-it-is-our-day/>

**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

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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**

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

24 October 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 Ellen McClarnon, who died recently.**

**Every Tuesday there will be a mass at Hill Chapel at 9.30am.**

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially David Michael Done and Monica 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

- \* **Sanitise hands** on entry.
- \* A hymn book and mass book will be given to you on entry. Singing is now permitted.
- \* 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 newsletter on entry and **take it away when you leave**.
- \* **Please wear a mask** as you go up the aisle to communion and remove the mask before you 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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis Appeal** for our recent Family Fast Day. Every donation helps us in our work and is gratefully received.

**Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November.** Please pray that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see [cafod.org.uk/COP26](https://cafod.org.uk/COP26)

*May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.*

## Prayer for the COP26 climate summit

Loving God, we praise your name with all you have created. You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures. We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation. May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son. Amen



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

## HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES

From next week – and until the end of January – we will resume our collection for the food bank in Ingol, Preston.

If you do wish to donate any food items, tins or packets – please leave in the marked box at the back of church.

Your support really does help to make a difference to nearby struggling families.

## CREATING THE ARCHIVES – BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Pastoral Parish Council recently agreed that a ‘Book of Remembrance’, containing the names and a short biography of former parishioners, should be displayed in the church. The book will be kept as a lasting tribute and commemoration of their time as worshipers at St Francis, Hill Chapel, and will have pride of place for all to see.

Several former parishioners will be remembered fondly by their families and friends and, to ensure the names of as many as possible of the deceased are included in the book, the PPC invites you to submit the name and a brief biography of any individual you would like to be included. In doing so, please try to include the date of their death, age, and any particular detail about their life that you think appropriate. The Book will be displayed in a special cabinet showing the names of those who died during each month of the year.

The PPC hopes to have the Book of Remembrance on display for the first time in November. However, names can be submitted at any time in the future to be added to the book. If you would like to submit a name, together with a brief biography of the deceased, please forward, either in a sealed envelope to any member of the PPC, or by placing your envelope in the box marked ‘Book of Remembrance,’ at the back of church. Alternatively, please email these details to Mary Doran, PPC Chair, at [mfdoran@btinternet.com](mailto:mfdoran@btinternet.com) or to me, Mike Bryan, PPC member, at [swallow1234@icloud.com](mailto:swallow1234@icloud.com)

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the PPC if you need any further information.

**Mike Bryan**

## GARDENING DAY NEXT SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Many hands make light work! Please come along if you can, even if it's just for a short time. Refreshments are provided.

Our beautiful grounds here at The Hill are a source of tranquillity and solace. The parish is very grateful to all those who work so hard to make it so.

### READINGS

#### First reading

Jeremiah 31:7-9

*I will guide them by a smooth path where they will not stumble*

The Lord says this:  
Shout with joy for Jacob!  
Hail the chief of nations!  
Proclaim! Praise! Shout:  
‘The Lord has saved his people,  
the remnant of Israel!’  
See, I will bring them back  
from the land of the North  
and gather them from the far ends of earth;  
all of them: the blind and the lame,  
women with child, women in labour:  
a great company returning here.  
They had left in tears,  
I will comfort them as I lead them back;  
I will guide them to streams of water,  
by a smooth path where they will not stumble.  
For I am a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my first-born son.

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#### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125(126)

*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.*

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,

on our lips there were songs.  
*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.*  
The heathens themselves said: ‘What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!’  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.  
*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.*  
Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.  
*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.*  
They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves.  
*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.*

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#### Second reading

Hebrews 5:1-6

*You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever*

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: *You are my son, today I have become your father*, and in another text: *You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.*

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#### Gospel Acclamation

Jn8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!

*Go; your faith has saved you*

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, ‘Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.’ And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So they called the blind man. ‘Courage,’ they said ‘get up; he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Rabbuni,’ the blind man said to him ‘Master, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has saved you.’ And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

### HOMILY

#### **Thirtieth Sunday 2021**

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 125; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52

We have a change of mood this week. Last Sunday, if you recall, we heard of the suffering Christ, and were called to follow Him in receiving the baptism of blood and the cup of suffering. Today, there is an emphasis on God’s gifts, and a mood of rejoicing, indeed of exuberance.

It is something which we encounter, perhaps surprisingly, in the Book of Jeremiah. He is frequently regarded as a doom and gloom merchant: a Jeremiah is someone who prophesies disaster, an Eeyore who sees only the dark side.

In general, there is some truth in this, but only because Jeremiah was constantly facing a dark and difficult situation. Much of the book attributed to him deals with the perils of the Jewish people, who were about to undergo seventy years of exile in Babylon. Jeremiah is concerned to prepare them for this ordeal, pointing to the way of dealing with it, and resisting the false promises of the false prophets, who were misleading the people with empty promises. (Far be it from me to suggest a resemblance to modern day politics.)

All that Jeremiah prophesied came true, but today we meet a different Jeremiah both literally and metaphorically. The seventy years of exile are coming to an end: during that time, the original Jeremiah would almost certainly have died, and the author of this part of the book must be his successor as prophet of the Lord.

The mood too is very different: there is a spirit of jubilation which is almost palpable. “Proclaim! Praise! Shout!” the people are told, and we can feel like shouting with them. God is fulfilling His promises which He made through the original Jeremiah long ago—that after seventy years He would lead the exiles home.

Two points occur to me. Firstly, the returning exiles would largely have been the descendants of those who were originally taken from their homeland. Any survivors among those first exiles would have been children or babes in arms at the time, and would now be elderly, especially by the standards of those days. The majority of those who made the trip back to Judah and Jerusalem would have known them almost as places of fable, a promised land of which they had heard but which they had never seen. God, we realise, is faithful to His promises, but we, like the Jews of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, must be prepared to wait in faith.

Secondly, to gain some idea of the overwhelming sense of liberation which the people must have experienced, I think of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the collapse of Soviet communism. Anyone over the age of forty will have thought of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact as an ever-present threat. Many of us recall the crushing of the Hungarian uprising in 1956: still more will remember the snuffing out of the Prague spring in 1968.

Since 1961, the Berlin Wall had stood as an apparently permanent reminder of the division of Europe, a symbol of despair for so many who lived under totalitarian regimes. Suddenly, in 1989, in a matter of weeks, nay days, it was gone, to be followed by the collapse of the whole Soviet Union and the rebirth of subject nations such as Georgia and the Baltic states. Celebration was unrestrained at an apparent, or indeed, genuine, miracle.

Of course, since then, many hopes have been dashed, and there have been multiple setbacks and failures. The same was true of the exiles returning from Babylon. The same is true of us, who have been liberated by the death and resurrection of the Christ. Liberty brings responsibilities, it entails struggle and suffering, as last Sunday’s readings reminded us, but it is no less real for that. The Jewish people continued to squander many of the blessings of freedom by repeatedly turning away from God, and so do we. Like them we must, with God’s help, continue to work at our freedom.

Today’s psalm deals with the same historical event and displays the same exhilaration as the passage from Jeremiah: “When the Lord delivered Sion



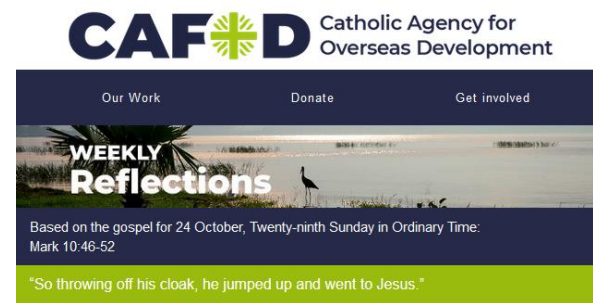
from bondage, it seemed like a dream. So must the fall of the Berlin Wall have seemed to those who lived beyond the physical wall, and the metaphorical Iron Curtain. So must the restoration of his sight have seemed to the blind beggar Bartimaeus.

In the account of Bartimaeus' cure, we encounter that same jubilation which we found in Jeremiah and the psalm. Anticipating what is to happen, Bartimaeus throws off his cloak and jumps to his feet. Then, once he is cured, he follows Jesus along the road, an indication that a spiritual, as well as a physical, blindness has been cured. Bartimaeus too would have experienced suffering as a follower of Christ, but his blindness was gone forever.

What about us? Do we rejoice and exult that we have been liberated by Christ from sin and from eternal death? Do we recognise all the blessings which we receive in our daily lives? Do we follow enthusiastically along the road in company with Jesus, recognising that our failures, our setbacks, and our sufferings cannot outweigh the liberation, the dreamlike liberation, which we have been given.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CLAUGHTON JUBILEE BEACON:

**2 June 2022** is The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. More than 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, UK Overseas Territories and Commonwealth countries in recognition of The Queen's long and selfless service. The beacons will enable local communities, individuals and organisations to pay tribute to her as part of the official Platinum Jubilee Weekend of celebrations from the 2nd to the 5th of June. One of the beacons will be on Claughton! Details will follow but mark down the evening of 2 June as one for a bonfire and fireworks!



When was the last time that we made a fool of ourselves for Jesus? Or, putting it another way, when was the last time that we really exercised our faith?

This is one of two times in Mark's Gospel where Jesus says 'Your faith has saved you,' the other being the woman with the haemorrhage in Mark 5. If our faith is to save us, it must be bold, courageous, and real.

Bartimaeus, having heard that it is Jesus, calls out to him and continues to do so in spite of being scolded by the crowd. We might consider how often we have turned away from Jesus because of the words of others, or, worse, how we have been members of the crowd, criticising or silencing others in their journey of faith.

This is not to separate our 'faith' from our 'life', for indeed one informs the other. By first calling out, and then throwing off the cloak of his old life and following Jesus, Bartimaeus showed a desire to have his life changed. In receiving his sight, Bartimaeus' desire was granted. His life was transformed by his encounter with Jesus.

*God of love,  
Give me the grace to courageously follow you.  
Help me to seek only your voice,  
even when the voices of others – and my own voice – tell me differently.  
Jesus, have pity on me,  
Amen.*