

Feast Days this Week:

Monday: St Mark

Tuesday: St George

Thursday: St Peter Chanel

Friday: St Catherine of Siena

Saturday: St Pius V

Cycle of Prayer During Easter:

We pray for new members of the Church; Human Work – St Joseph the Worker (1 May); Vocations (8 May); Survivors of sexual abuse (especially on 17 May); Right use of the media on Communications Day (29 May); the Church, especially at Pentecost (5 June).

Attendance and Collection:

10 April: Attendance 42 | Collection £93.00

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:

Church will be open roughly school hours for private prayer from Tuesday 19 April.

Cloughton & Hill Chapel visit the relics of Saint Bernadette

This will take place on 22 September 2022. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has arranged for the relics of Saint Bernadette to be brought to England this year. Her relics will be welcomed to St Peter's Cathedral from the evening of 22 September through to the late morning of 23 September. The relics will also be visiting Carlisle. Mindful that the Diocesan Chief Patroness is Our Lady of Lourdes, we must look on this as a very special moment in the life of the Diocese. This event provides an invitation for all of us to know the story of Saint Bernadette and to give her a place in our devotion. I suggest re-reading her story. She has much to teach us in the ways of humility and trust. Many of you may recall the occasion when the Cathedral welcomed the relics of St Therese of Lisieux. Unfortunately, this forthcoming occasion is much shorter and will need more careful planning.



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**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

24 April 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.

Today Mass is for the people of the parish.

There will be Mass on Tuesday at 9.30am at Hill Chapel. All are welcome.

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially John Frederick Holden, Mary Cooke and Francis Haywood. *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.**

Thank you

To all those who took part in and helped with the Easter services, especially to the sacristans, florists, readers, altar servers and all who helped behind the scenes.

Ukraine Appeal

We have now raised £700 for the people of Ukraine by serving drinks, cakes and gifts after mass. Thank you to everyone involved.

Our School Website

Many of you may not know that our lovely school next door has an amazing website. On the home page you will see a tab at the top, entitled: Faith and Religious Education. There you will be able to see all sorts of things about the Catholic life of the school and how the children celebrate their faith. As a parent and governor, I know how lucky we are to have a team of such dedicated and inspiring teaching staff, who are constantly working to help the children live their faith and to grow and develop in order to have life to the full, through Jesus. Also on the website, under the News tab, you can find out what's been going on in school more generally and read the blog of our wonderful head teacher, Miss Deakin. A great deal of time and work goes into creating and maintaining such a joyful and informative website, making it a valuable way for parents, parishioners and the wider community to feel connected with our parish school. I warmly invite you to explore the school website and I feel sure that you will enjoy doing so. **Nikki Brice**

From the Archives

I'm sure many of you will be familiar with the Sacred Grand Oratorio, Messiah, culminating in the famous Hallelujah Chorus, which was written by George Fredrick Handel in 1741. Although often thought of as Christmas Oratorio, the 'Messiah', was created by Handel as a piece based on three concepts: the story of the nativity and its prophecy; that of the crucifixion and redemption of mankind; and a commentary on the Christian soul and its victory over death. In each of these three parts, the chorus is absolutely at the heart of the work, complemented by four vocal soloists and an orchestra.

The Messiah was first performed in Dublin on 13 April 1742, and was commissioned by William Cavendish, 3rd Duke of Devonshire, who was then then serving as the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to raise money for hospitals and debtors' prisons. Though there is no detailed record of the performance, which raised £400 for the worthy causes, reports suggest that it was given by a chorus of 16 men and 16 boys, two women choristers, a small string orchestra, a chamber organ, and a harpsichord played by Handel himself. This was a modest ensemble compared to later performances when the work became world-famous, perhaps none exceeded by the London presentation in 1879, on the centenary of Handel's death. It was performed by a choir of 2,765 accompanied by a 460-piece orchestra.

Traditionally, everyone stands when the Hallelujah Chorus begins. The common explanation for this practice is that King George II attended a performance and rose to his feet when the Chorus was performed, obediently followed by all those present. What caused the King to rise is uncertain. Some say he did it because he was so moved by the magnificent music. Others say that he had dozed off but was startled out of his slumber by the loud choristers. The third, but unlikely theory is that when he heard the words, "And He shall reign for ever and ever" the King thought the ensemble were paying respect to himself and he stood to acknowledge the tribute!

Although Handel was born in Halle, Germany, in 1685, he very quickly became a renowned musician and composer in Italy and moved to London in 1711, where he established himself as a composer, much favoured by royalty and the English gentry. Handel spent the rest of his life in England. In February 1727 he became a British subject, which enabled him to be appointed a composer of the Chapel Royal. In this capacity he wrote many musical compositions including the, Coronation Anthems for George II, in 1727 and the Funeral Anthem for Queen Caroline ten years later. His, Music for the Royal Fireworks, an orchestral suite in five movements, premiered in London in 1749. Because of cataracts, Handel was blind by 1752 and died in 1759 at the age of seventy-four. More than 3,000 mourners attended his funeral and burial at Westminster Abbey. Appropriately, the last performance he attended was of Messiah. A final word from Ludwig van Beethoven, who said of Handel: "He is the greatest composer that ever lived. I would uncover my head and kneel before his tomb."

Mike Bryan