

Attendance and Collection

3rd Dec Attendance 86 Collection £281.30 including baptism

10th Dec Attendance 141 Collection £310.20

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our fundraising recently.
Raffle at Xmas Dinner raised £179.00. Xmas craft evening raised 130.00.

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

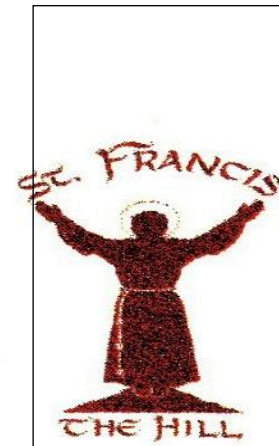
We have a box at the back of church with a variety of religious books belonging to parishioners which other people may like to read. If you would like to borrow any of the books or add some books of your own for other members of our parish to use - you are more than welcome. Please do fill in the form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

Feast Days

Tues – St. Stephen
Wed - St. John
Thurs – The Holy Innocents – Martyrs
Fri – St. Thomas Becket

Cycle of Prayer

Sunday - Pray for Expectant Mothers on 4th Sunday of Advent - 24th Dec



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

The Hill, Horns Lane, Goosnargh
Preston PR32FJ

Telephone: 01772 865229
Clergy: Fr Sony Joseph
Kadamthodu

<https://stfrancisgoosnargh.chessck.co.uk/>

4th Sunday of Advent – 24th December

The Nativity of the Lord- 25th December

Readings - Year B

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 4pm Christmas Day 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.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Intention is for Ruth Doyle

Christmas Day Mass Intention is for Teresa Bamber

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
Jo Clare Bolton, Edith Morris & Mary Alice Marsh

Tuesday 26th December @ 9.00 am Adoration and Mass @ 9.30am.

Ribble Valley Foodbank would like to express their huge thanks and appreciation to all those who generously donated to the Food Bank and to those who helped to sort out the donations.

From the Archives

As we come to the end of the Advent season and prepare to celebrate the coming of our Saviour on Christmas Day, I refer to the familiar words of St. Luke in the Gospel of Christmas morning:

‘In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken. This, the first census, was taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So, all went to be counted, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child.’ Luke 2:

It is difficult to imagine how Joseph and Mary managed the journey considering the distance involved and the cold weather conditions at that time of year. The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem would probably go via Samaria and Jerusalem and take about four days on foot. It is quite likely that Joseph would have owned a donkey to carry pieces of wood and other tools of the carpenter’s trade, so probably, as Mary was heavily pregnant with the baby Jesus at this time, she would have ridden on the donkey for part of the journey. However, the Bible says nothing about her travelling on a donkey, so we can’t be sure. It is about 75m from Nazareth to Jerusalem and another 6m from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. (About 80 miles in all) If Mary had not been feeling very well it could have taken nearly a week to do the journey. Some form of overnight accommodation would have been needed. In those days good Jews were supposed to offer

hospitality to travellers and might have taken them in to their homes overnight; or they might have camped out. Joseph and Mary probably travelled with a group of people from their area. Many people from Nazareth would go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year, so with a 12th of the population of the area going to Bethlehem, they may well have travelled in a large group for safety. There were lots of bandits at that time who would attack lonesome travellers, and even lions and bears, so, travelling on foot could be dangerous. Travelling through Samaria might have been hard too, as the people who lived there, the Samaritans, did not like the Jews and might have made life difficult for Jewish travellers like Mary and Joseph. On arrival in Bethlehem Joseph must have been distraught to discover all the Inns were full but would have been grateful for the offer of accommodation in what was, hopefully, a sheltered and warm stable. Mary and Joseph would have welcomed Jesus into this world, away from home, exhausted after a gruelling journey, rejected by every place of shelter in the town and first visited by humble shepherds. ‘The Word was made Flesh and Dwelt amongst us!’

I wish you all a Very Peaceful, Holy and Happy Christmas.

Mike Bryan

