

Feast Days This Week:

Tuesday: St David

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday, Fasting and Abstinence

Friday: Women's World Day of Prayer

The Cycle of Prayer (Lent): candidates for the sacraments; Women's World Day of Prayer (4 March); the needy and the hungry of the world (Fast Day 11 March); penitents and wanderers.

Attendance and Collection:

13 February: Attendance 63 | Collection £124.00

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.



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**

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27 February 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 Teresa Bamber.

Please remember in your prayers the family of Charlie Baines who will be baptised today. We welcome Charlie to the parish family and the wider family of God.

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

On Ash Wednesday, 2 March, there will be Mass at Hill Chapel at 9.30am and at St Mary's, Claughton, at 7.30pm.

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Gerard Knight, Mary Christine Wells, Mary Kathleen Gillow and May

Catherine Pole. *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.

- * 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.**

Many thanks for your co-operation.

First Communion Preparation

We have fourteen children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. They will be making their First Confession during Lent and receive First Holy Communion on the feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday 19 June. The display in the Children's Corner introduces this very special group to the parish. Please remember them in your prayers.

Brock Valley Churches Together

This year, the World Day of Prayer Service will take place on **Friday 4 March at 2pm, hosted by St Mary's Newhouse**. We are part of BVCT and all are invited to go along and represent Hill Chapel at the service.

From The Archives

Wednesday next, 2 March, is Ash Wednesday, one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of fasting and prayer, 46 days before Easter Sunday. However, Lent is just 40 days long as the Sundays of Lent are not counted. The length of the Lenten season stems from the long biblical history of the Forty Days' fasts of Moses, Elijah and especially Our Blessed Lord in the desert. The date of Easter is determined as the Sunday following the first full moon that happens on or after the March equinox, which is always 21

March in the Christian calendar. The earliest Easter can fall is 22 March, and the latest 25 April. There is therefore a 35-day window in which Easter can fall, depending on the timing of the full moon relative to 21 March 21.

During the early days of the Church, the observance of fasting was very strict. One meal was allowed per day and even for that meal, meat and fish were forbidden. By the fifteenth century that meal was taken at midday, but the rules were gradually relaxed over the years and now only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days when Catholics must fast and abstain from eating meat.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins – just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The Seven Penitential Psalms are: Psalms 6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129 and 142. They came to be known by this name by the order of Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) and they were to be prayed during the days of Lent. If they couldn't be said on each day of the Season, they could be prayed on the seven Lenten Fridays. The tradition of the reciting the Seven Penitential Psalms continues in several Catholic countries.

Mike Bryan

Stainer's Crucifixion

Preston Orpheus Choir are organising a 'come and sing' Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on Saturday 19 March at St Leonard's church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9JA. An afternoon workshop from 2.30 to 5.30pm, followed by an evening performance at 7.00pm. Singers £10, audience £5. More details (including a singer's registration form) on the website: www.prestonorpheuschoir.org.