

Feast Days this Week:

Tuesday: All Souls Day

Wednesday: St Winefride

Thursday: St Charles Borromeo

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; the spreading of the Gospel; justice and peace; 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 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 17 October: Attendance 53 | Collection £107.00

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/>

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

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

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.



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**

ALL SAINTS DAY

31 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 the people of the parish.

Please remember in your prayers **Margaret (Bunty) Banks**, who died last Sunday. *Eternal rest give unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

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 Angela Mary Jones, Pat Turner, Thomas Wilding and Bridget Mary Piner. *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.

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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

No doubt many of you will be aware that the Palace of Westminster, the seat of political democracy in this country, is currently undergoing major restoration. Since 1860, Parliament has conducted its work in the Palace and for the last twenty years the Joint Parliamentary Committee had become increasingly concerned that the fabric of the building was in urgent need of major repair and maintenance work.

Although in 1835 the London based architect, Charles Barry, won the competition to design the Palace, it was the Catholic architect Augustus Welby Pugin, a gifted 23-year-old architect and draughtsman who had devoted himself entirely to the pursuit of Gothic architecture, that Barry turned to for assistance in his drawings. However, neither man would see their creation completed as they both worked long hours and endlessly

worried about every detail of the design and building of the Palace. It was not until eight years after Pugin's death in 1852 that the new Palace was completed; by then his eldest son Edward Welby Pugin had taken over the work.

The restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England and Wales in 1850, together with the mass influx of immigrants from Ireland, led to a great demand from the Catholic Church for new buildings. As an established Catholic architect, now famous for his work on the Palace of Westminster, Edward Pugin was commissioned to design and oversee the building of more than one hundred Catholic churches. In England, more than one quarter of his churches are in the northwest, the majority of these being in Lancashire. His output of churches peaked over the two-year period 1863-64, during which some twenty-two churches/chapels were commenced. Perhaps Pugin's best known churches in Preston are St Wilfrid's and St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs.

The land that the English Martyrs church is built on has a gruesome history as it stands on the site of an area that used to be called Gallows Hill. It received that name after the Battle of Preston in 1715 when the Cromwell government overcame the Jacobite rebel army. On 5 January 1715, it was recorded that sixteen rebels, 'were hanged upon Gallows Hill, for high treason and conspiracy'. It was not until 1864, that the English Martyrs mission was founded, in a house called Wren's Cottage, a quarter of mile north of the present church. The house was made available for the priest and the stable was converted into a chapel. As the chapel was only temporary and could fit just 145 people, Edward Pugin was commissioned to design a new church that could accommodate a larger congregation. Preston Corporation sold the land around Gallows Hill for its construction and the foundation stone was laid in May 1866. The church was initially meant to have a spire, but a lack of funds prevented it from being built. Remarkably, eighteen months later in December 1867, the church was officially opened by the Bishop of Liverpool, Bishop Goss, with the assistance of the Bishop of Nottingham, Richard Roskell.

On 11 July 2017, Bishop Michael Campbell announced that the church and parish would be entrusted to the care of the Institute of 'Christ the King Sovereign Priest'. The Institute has also been administering St Walburge's church since 2014.

Mike Bryan

First reading

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!

Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Jn 6:63,68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

You are not far from the kingdom of God

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

WEEKLY Reflections

Based on the gospel for 31 October, Solemnity of All Saints: Matthew 5:1-12a

"Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied."

In his social encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis highlights the injustice of environmental change and the effect this has on people who are poor, who are most vulnerable to its effects. It is the poorest who end up paying the price for the greed of energy consumption of the developed world.

Two saints in particular show us through their lives how to be hungry for justice and to thirst for what is right in our world. Saint Francis of Assisi, who radically changed his life in order to save others. And Saint Mother Teresa, who fought for the dignity of the human person and was a voice for the poor, the sick, the homeless, the displaced, those forgotten and marginalised by society.

Inspired by their example, in little deeds and the changes we make to our daily life in caring for creation, we can also help those most vulnerable in our world.

May our hunger and thirst be to change our habits which harm those who are poor. May we become more aware of our need to stand in solidarity with our planet and those who suffer as a consequence of our choices. As we draw ever closer to the COP26 climate talks, we ask the Holy Spirit to inspire humanity to form a positive response to the cry of creation. was granted. His life was transformed by his encounter with Jesus.

Lord, bless the changes we seek to make for the good of all humanity, in order to preserve life and help our planet recover from our excess. Amen.