

Feast Days this Week:

Wednesday: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday: St Peter Claver

Saturday: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Cycle of Prayer for the Autumn of Ordinary Time: We pray for: the harvest and care of creation (26 Sept); students and teachers on Education Day (12 Sept); the spreading of the Gospel on Home Mission Day (19 Sept) and World Mission Day (24 Oct); justice and peace on Harvest Fast Day (1 Oct); prisoners and dependants (10–16 Oct); victims of war on Remembrance Day (14 Nov); and young people on Christ the King (21 Nov).

CAFOD Responding to Multiple Emergencies Across the World: on Saturday 14 August, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti. More than 1900 people were killed and at least one million people are affected. Tropical storm Grace has now hit Haiti, exacerbating the already serious emergency. CAFOD is working through the local Church organisations such as Caritas Haiti and the Jesuit Migrants to provide urgent humanitarian aid – food, water, tents, hygiene kits and first aid for families affected. In Afghanistan, we are shocked and gravely concerned by the Taliban take-over of the vast majority of the country. The generosity and compassion of our Catholic community have allowed us to stand together with communities in Afghanistan since the 1980s, supporting local organisations committed to improving the lives of vulnerable and marginalised people. The situation in Afghanistan is now uncertain and changing rapidly. Our Emergency Response Team are assessing how best to respond. We are doing everything possible to ensure the immediate well-being of local partners and the communities they serve. Please keep the people of Afghanistan in your prayers. If you are able to donate towards CAFOD's emergency work, please go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Give> or call 0303 303 3030.

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: 15 August: attendance 37 | collection £119.50
22 August: attendance 38 | collection £110.00



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**

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5 September 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. Your prayers are also requested for Barbara Paley, who is unwell.

Please remember in your prayers the family of Sonny Michael, who will be baptised today. We pray for Sonny Michael as we welcome him to the parish family and to the wider family of God.

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Kelly Steyck and Bede Rogerson. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

SAFETY RULES FOR MASS

Stewards will be on duty to ensure that safety procedures are followed. Full details are on our website. Please do read them.

Face masks will need to be worn.

Please follow these guidelines once entering church:

- * **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**.
- * At Holy Communion:

Please wear a mask as you go up the aisle to communion and remove their mask before they 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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

For the past eighteen months almost every child and young person in our country has had their education disrupted. The pandemic has led to major problems in protecting pupils and staff from the Covid-19 virus and, despite the courageous efforts of staff in our schools and colleges, many institutions have been either closed, or only partially opened, for lengthy periods. We are very fortunate that the staff of our own school at Hill Chapel have managed to keep the school open for most of this time and have ensured that the children of key workers have always been able to attend school. In addition, new ways of teaching digitally have been developed to provide quality remote teaching and learning programmes for those having to remain at home. Our thanks must go to all teachers and support staff for their dedication during this very difficult time.

As the children return to school after the long summer holiday, I thought it appropriate to look back to 1880 when our school at Hill Chapel was first opened.

The Elementary Education Act 1870, commonly known as Forster's Education Act, set the framework for compulsory schooling of all children between the ages of 5 and 12 in England and Wales. As there was no Catholic school in the Goosnargh area, the Benedictine Order asked the then Parish Priest, Fr M. Brierley OSB, to raise funds to build a parish school. It is clear from the archives that Fr Brierley was concerned that the expense of such a project would put a tremendous financial burden not only on the parishioners but also on his own limited finances. On 12 August 1880, he wrote the following letter to the Bishop of Liverpool:

"I have been ordered by my superiors to provide a school for the children of this district and, in doing so, I have incurred expenses which my ordinary income cannot meet. Will you kindly permit me to add your name to the enclosed list of subscribers to the school fund? I need not tell you, that any help you may give me will be very welcome." M Brierley

The bishop sent £5 which was put with the £15. 4s. 4d. donated by other subscribers. The parishioners of 'The Hill' would no doubt have made many personal sacrifices to raise the balance needed to build the school and, in time, the cottage as a home for the headteacher.

I wish all children and school staff a very happy, successful and virus free academic year.

Mike Bryan

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.

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/>

READINGS

First reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

The blind shall see, the deaf hear, the dumb sing for joy

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145(146):7-10

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan

but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second reading

James 2:1-5

God chose the poor according to the world to be rich in faith

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was

loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

VACANCY: Deputy Diocesan School Commissioner

Are you seeking a challenge? Can you play a key role in leading the delivery of the Bishop of Lancaster's strategy for academy conversion and supporting his vision for Catholic education? If so, then we would welcome an application from you for the post of Deputy Diocesan Schools Commissioner.

The Diocese of Lancaster is seeking to recruit a Deputy Diocesan Schools Commissioner who, under the governance of the Trustees, the oversight of the Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation and the guidance of the Diocesan Schools Commissioner, will support the development and implementation of its strategic plans for education. This will include leading the roll-out of the Diocesan academisation programme and assisting in the delivery of the Church's mission in education.

- The role is full time, 35 hours per week (Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00pm), with the ability to locate and work flexibly according to the needs of the service.
- We are offering a competitive salary and pension package with 25 days holiday.
- The post is subject to an enhanced DBS check and there will be a 12 month probationary period.
- A full information pack regarding this role and details of how to apply are available from hew@lancasterdiocese.org.uk and on our website at www.lancaster-diocese-education.org.uk or telephone **01524 841190**.

Closing date: 12 noon on Wednesday 15th September 2021.

Interview to be held on Wednesday 22nd September 2021.

