

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.

Garden Collection

Many thanks to all who contributed towards the Garden Collection.

Attendance and Collection

11th September : Attendance - 62 Collection £103.00

18th September: Attendance - 49 Collection £103.00

Catholic Education Services £11.00

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.

Cycle of Prayer during October

Justice and Peace – Harvest Fast Day- 7th October

<u>Feast Days</u> –	Tues	St Francis of Assisi
	Thurs	St Bruno
	Fri	Our Lady of the Rosary
	Sat	The Blessed Virgin Mary

Diary Dates

Sunday 9th October – Synod Follow-up meeting after mass.



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

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Clergy: Fr Sony Joseph
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<https://stfrancisgoosnargh.chessck.co.uk/>

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time- Harvest Thanksgiving

Family Mass 2nd October – 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's Mass is for the People of the Parish

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially Ellen Woods.
We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We remember Bernard Melling, Margarita Josephine Ibbott, James Gornall, George Ibison & Kathleen D'Arcy

On Tuesday 4th October there will be at
9am -Exposition of the Sacrament
9.30am -Mass

Tea and Coffee are served at the back of church after Sunday Mass. This is an ideal opportunity to meet and greet new parishioners and to catch up with familiar faces too.

Safety Rules for Mass:

Although safety rules have been restricted, we are only a small church and do want everyone to be kept safe:

- Please sanitise your hands on entry
- If preferred - please feel free to wear a mask on entry, on receiving Holy Communion and when leaving church
- Please follow the one-way system to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion – guided by the stewards.

Harvest Celebration – Saturday 1st October

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Harvest Celebration – those who helped in the organisation, all who participated and all who donated food. It was a wonderful parish event.

From the Archives

This weekend our parish celebrates its Harvest Festival, a tradition that has been practised in farming communities for many centuries. The word 'harvest' comes from the Old English word '*hærfest*' meaning 'autumn', the season for gathering the food of the land. This was a vital time of year when success was a genuine matter of life or death. A prosperous harvest ensured that a community would be fed throughout the potentially barren winter months. Historically, harvest was celebrated on Michaelmas Day, 29th September, with a lavish meal of several meats, vegetables, puddings, tarts, and ale, and would be accompanied by singing, drinking games and much reverie. As it falls near the equinox, the day is associated with the beginning of autumn and the shortening of daylight hours, it is one of the "quarter days". As the name implies, there are four "quarter days" in a year, Lady Day ([25th March](#)), Midsummer ([21st June](#)), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas ([25th December](#)).

They are spaced three months apart on religious festivals, usually close to the solstices or equinoxes. They were the four dates on which servants were hired, rents due or leases begun.

It was the time at which land was exchanged and debts were paid. It used to be said that the harvest had to be completed by Michaelmas, almost like the marking of the end of the productive season and the beginning of the new cycle of farming.

It's said that Reverend Robert Hawker, a vicar in Cornwall, introduced the idea of having a harvest festival in church in the 1800s, with hymns giving thanks for the bounty of the fields and orchards. Church celebrations became popular throughout the Victorian period and, even though we no longer all grow our own food, harvest festivals are still celebrated in many parishes each autumn. Bread traditionally features with a loaf being baked into the shape of a wheatsheaf and taken into church to be blessed. At the service, members of the congregation are encouraged to bring gifts of food and flowers to decorate the church as a sign of their thanks to God. These gifts are then distributed between those in need in the neighbourhood.

Our harvest festival is particularly important and significant this year. Whilst we thank God for the harvest, we also hope to collect and display many gifts of food to distribute in our local community. The war in Eastern Europe has led to a global shortage of wheat and, as in any global conflict, the price of gas and oil has risen sharply. This has led to a steep increase in the price of food in the shops, and a significant rise in the cost of domestic heating bills which are due to rise even higher as we move into winter. Many families are struggling to cope, with an ever-increasing number becoming reliant on local food banks. Thus, all your gifts of food for our harvest festival this year, will be donated to the Longridge Food Bank. Please give generously, we will continue to collect your gifts for the next two weeks; a box is available at the back of church for your donations. Thank you.

Mike Bryan