

Attendance and Collection

18th June Attendance 49 Collection £158.10 including baptism
25th June Attendance 5 Collection £205.80

Special Collection this week - Stella Maris – Sea Sunday

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.

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

Pray for Europe especially on the Feast of St. Benedict - 11th July.
Pray for Seafarers especially on Seafarers Day – 9th July

Feast Days

Tues – ST. BENEDICT – Prayer for Europe
Thurs – St. Henry
Fri – St. Camillus of Lellis
Sat – St. Bonaventure

School Diary Dates

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| Wednesday, 12 th July | Pirates of the Curry Bean – in school – 2pm / 6pm |
| Friday, 14 th July | Music Showcase at Cloughton - 1.30pm |
| Monday, 17 th July | Pre-School Leavers Assembly in school |
| Thursday, 20 th July | Leavers Mass at 10.30 am in Church |



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/>

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Day for Seafarers 9th July - Readings - Year A

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 Intention is for the People of the Parish

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially
Lawrence Ibison, Monica Gornall, Shirley Walker,
Constance Mary Barber, Birdie Platt and Magi Clabrough.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially
John Arthur Wells & Father John Leo Hothersall.

There will be no Mass on Tuesday
Tea and Coffee are served at the back of church after Sunday Mass.

Church Garden

People have commented on how the garden is looking lovely, smart and peaceful. In order to maintain this image, we will continue with the garden but would appreciate more help especially from the young to protect the future. For health and safety reasons we need to refrain from using ceramic/glass on graves as with frost damage they can be very sharp.

Please limit grave decorations to the head stone base, as extending the area means difficulty for the mowers or areas near the graves will have to be missed.

Maintenance of the decorations by the owners would be appreciated; failing that dead or faded silk flowers will be removed to avoid becoming unsightly.

The Gardeners

Stonyhurst College Open Days

This summer's *museum and library open days at Stonyhurst college are now available for booking on the Stonyhurst website:*

<https://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/about-us/stonyhurst-college-historic-collections/exhibitions/a-summer-of-shakespeare>

From the Archives

I return this week to focus on the chapel of St William, Lee House, Thornley cum Wheatley, Longridge. This small rural Catholic chapel has many historical similarities to White Hill and our own Hill Chapel. It was founded as a mission during penal times by the Franciscans in a small farmhouse where Mass was celebrated secretly in the attic, which is said to have contained a priest's hiding place. There are some original parts left of this old sixteenth-century cottage, a tiny cupboard in the attic looks like a rough tabernacle.

In 1738, when rules against Catholicism were being relaxed slightly, a formal mission was established. A catholic yeoman farmer, Thomas Eccles, left land and farms in trust for the use of, "a Friar or Friar Minor of the order of St. Francis of the English province to live and officiate at the Lee House and to have a chapel there, and that all the church stuff for the priest and altar, and my book of Religion may be preserved at the Lee House, and that the priest be not absent more than one week in the month." The curious reference to "my book of Religion" is hard to explain. There is however, preserved at Lee

House a portrait in oils of the Founder, but the "book of Religion" has disappeared.

The first priest known to have served at Lee House was Father Germain (Germanus) Helmes, O.S.F. Fr. Helmes came from an old Goosnargh family, residing chiefly at Church House, Goosnargh, he lived for many years as a priest and served for a short time at White Hill, moving to Lee House in 1738. After the 1745 rebellion there was a renewed attack against Lancashire Catholics, who were accused of supporting the Stuart rebels. A mob came out and arrested the priest at Lee House. He was taken to Lancaster castle. There after four months he died. Anyone who has visited the dungeons at Lancaster, deprived of air, light, and sanitation, need not feel surprised that a prisoner should perish under such appalling conditions. Yet one chronicle suggests that Fr. Helmes may have been poisoned by a female attendant. He is probably the last Catholic of the diocese to suffer grievously under the penal laws and, in truth, to die because he was a priest. Unfortunately, he has never been considered as a martyr. Legend has it that Fr. Helme frequently appears in ghostly form in our own presbytery, where he must surely have visited whilst at White Hill. The Franciscans served at Lee House until 1826.

Fr. Philip Orrell, a priest from Ushaw; took over the mission from 1827 to 1840. He was followed by Fr. Francis Trappes who built the present chapel and house. Unfortunately, owing to a dispute with authority, the chapel was closed for nineteen years, from 1841 to 1859, when it was reopened by the Benedictines. This isolated little parish managed for many years to struggle along despite the small number of Catholics living inside its boundaries and the establishment of the new catholic parish at Longridge. Its tiny graveyard probably houses more Catholic dead than any similar size graveyard in the land. An old tradition, which no doubt goes right back to the days of persecution, states that when Mass was to be said at Lee House the washing was hung out in a certain field. This signal could be observed from farms on the hillside around, often several miles away, and then word would be passed from neighbour to neighbour that the priest was in the district. In 1936, it was taken over by the Salford Diocese. The Parish was closed in 1991 but the buildings are still used for pastoral purposes and mass is celebrated at least once each month. I hope to organise a parish evening mass at Lee House later this summer. Watch this space!

Mike Bryan