**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 follow the one-way system to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion – guided by the stewards.

**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.

**Attendance and Collection**

18th Dec Attendance 63,Collection £163.00

1st Jan Attendance 41,Collection £198.00

Christmas Masses Attendance 259,Collection £822.00

**Gardening**

Could any Christmas decorations/plants be removed from the graves before the end of January otherwise the gardeners will clear them. Thank you.

**Request for Treasurer Support**

We are looking for someone to help with the role of Treasurer at Hill Chapel. If you have experience of accounts and would be able to help - please see Tom Smyth for further information.

**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.

**Feast Days –** Thurs - St. Aelred of Rievaulx

 Fri – St. Kentigern

 Sat – The Blessed Virgin Mary

**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/

 **The Baptism of the Lord**

 **8th January - 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 is for the people of the Parish**

We also pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially Bill Bamber, Lawrence Ibison, Monica Gornall and Shirley Walker.

 We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially Marian Walker & Austin Bolton,

No mass on Tuesdays throughout January

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.

**Please note our new website address at the top of the page**

From the Archives

On January 6th, twelfth night, we celebrated the feast on the Epiphany which marks the visit of the Magi, or Three Kings, to the baby Jesus. The only mention in the New Testament of the Magi is in the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12: ‘After they had spoken to King Herod they went on their way and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their countries by another route’.

In addition to the honour and status implied by the monetary value of the gifts of the Magi, these were chosen for their special spiritual symbolism about Jesus himself—gold representing his kingship, frankincense representing his priestly role, and myrrh representing the foreshadowing of his death. Frankincense is the resin of the Boswellia tree family and when extracted hardens into a solid mass; this is then burned to produce a high-quality incense. Myrrh resin, extracted from the Commiphora plant has been used throughout history as a perfume, incense, and medicine. Myrrh was also used in biblical times to anoint bodies hence it symbolises Christ’s Passion and death.

The three Maji or the ‘Wise’ men, as described in St. Matthew’s gospel have become known most commonly as Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar (or Casper). They would have been well versed in Astrology, which was a highly esteemed science at that time. According to the ancient historian Herodotus, the magi were a tribe of people that descended from the Medes. From the Babylonian to the Roman empires, they maintained a place of tremendous

prominence and significance in the Orient and served in a powerfully influential class as advisers to the royalty. The lengthiest mention of the magi in the Old Testament is found in the book of Daniel. Although the magi came from a pagan religion, Daniel’s position and influence directed them to the knowledge of the true God and, for those sincere ones that studied the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit guided them to understand the prophecies that predicted the coming of the Messiah– the Saviour of the world. It is perhaps surprising that some of the first individuals in the world to recognise the arrival of the King of Kings were Gentiles not Jews. St. John highlights the rejection Jesus faced from His own people with the following powerful statement; “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.”

I have managed to obtain samples of both Frankincense and Myrrh and hope to be able to display them at the back of church for you to see after mass. Unfortunately, I will not be displaying any gold!

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

 Mike Bryan

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