

Next Sunday – March 19th

Next Sunday will be a Family Mass and Mother's Day Celebration.

Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

The earthquake on the Turkish Syrian border is a major catastrophe and all the major International Aid Agencies in the U.K. are desperate for much needed funding. The quickest and most effective way of offering our parish's support is to ask anyone who wishes to donate, to do so via the 'Disasters Emergency Committee' (DEC), website. Our own Catholic Aid Agency, CAFOD, is a member of the DEC and 100% of all donations go towards providing rapid relief for those in need. The website address is: <https://www.dec.org.uk/donate/earthquake>

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.

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

Fri - ST PATRICK

Sat – St. Cyril of Jerusalem



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – 12th March

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 Bill Bamber, Lawrence Ibison, Monica Gornall, Shirley Walker & Constance Barber

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially Lara Kristie Jones

Baptism: Arlo Key is to be baptised at Hill Chapel this Sunday. We welcome Arlo and his family into our Parish.

On Tuesday 14th March 9.00am -Way of the cross .9.30am Mass

On 15th March @11 am there is a requiem mass for **Derek Ogden.**

Tea and Coffee are served at the back of church after Sunday Mass

Please note our new website address at the top of the page overleaf.

For Local Parishes:

Fr. Philip Newbold, a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, who has retired to Freckleton and has helped with supply work in Parishes in the area. He has decided to use his time during Lent 2023 to support 'Aid to the Church in Need' (Emergency Aid for Ukraine). This provides food, clothing and shelter for those caught up in the war. He will walk 10,000 paces per day for the 40 days of Lent. If you wish to support him you can sponsor him online at: www.justgiving.com/page/fr-philip-newbold-167? OR sign a sponsor form to be found in the church porch and Fr. Philip will arrange collection after Easter. Thank you.

From the Archives

In my last archive article, I wrote about the history of Goosnargh, including a short piece about our own presbytery at Hill Chapel which was built circa 1500. This week my attention is upon one of the most influential Catholic families living in the area during those dangerous penal times.

Edmund Threlfall lived at Ashes Farm at the foot of Beacon Fell. In the late 17th century, he was involved in a conspiracy against King William III, (William of Orange) which became commonly known as the 'Lancashire Plot'. Threlfall was chosen by his fellow conspirators to travel to Ireland to collect a number of commissions and military instructions to be used against the Crown.

On his return, he landed at Cockerham, assumed the name, Captain Brown, and set about delivering commissions and military instructions signed by the exiled James II. The recipients were Yorkshire and Durham Catholic Gentry who were Jacobite supporters. However, Threlfall's activities were soon discovered by the authorities. It is believed that incriminating documents were found by Custom's men on the ship which had brought him back to England. A warrant for his arrest was issued by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire and he became a wanted man. However, Threlfall secretly slipped away back to Ashes Farm, which at that time, had a moat and hiding places in its four-foot-thick walls. In 1690, more than a year after Threlfall went into hiding, he was taking some fresh air outside the farm when he was surprised by a troop of militia. In the fight which he put up to resist arrest, he was killed, and the plot finally failed.

Ashes Farm remains as a private residence off Church Lane and is a Grade II Listed Building. Although modernised and extended, a section of the moat remains behind the main building. A 'Tympanum', or semi-circular decorative surface, on one of the outer walls of the building may be a posthumous representation of Edmund Threlfall

There is a link to the Threlfall family in our parish archives. A lead Holy Water Stoop dating back to the period was recovered from Ashes Farm and is now kept safely in our parish sacristy. The stoop is rectangular in shape and is extremely heavy. On one of its long sides is embossed the shape of a cross, on the opposite side a small flower. It is believed that on a normal day the stoop would have been placed at the gate of the farm with the flower emblem facing outwards. On a day when a secret mass was to be celebrated, the stoop would have been turned round to display the cross and filled with Holy Water. I hope to put the stoop on display after mass at the back of church this Sunday.

Mike Bryan