

### 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

4th Dec - Attendance 55 Collection £126.00

11th Dec - Attendance 89 Collection £155.00

Diocesan Poor Missions - £12.35

### Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve – 4.30 pm , Carols at 4.00pm *Claughton – 6.30pm*

Christmas Day – 10.30am. *Claughton – 9am*

**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 November** - pray for expectant Mothers

**Feast Days** – Wed – St. Peter Canisius

Fri – St. John of Kanty

**Sat – Vigil of Solemnity of the Nativity**



## St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

The Hill, Horns Lane, Goosnargh  
Preston PR32FJ

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Clergy: Fr Sony Joseph  
Kadamthodu

<https://stfrancisgoosnargh.chessck.co.uk/>

## Fourth Sunday of Advent - Prayer for Expectant Mothers

18<sup>th</sup> December- 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 Rev Joseph D'Ambrossio who is very poorly, Moreland Cowell, Harry & Marie Mason & Francis & Jane Gornall**

We also pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially Bill Bamber, Lawrence Ibison and Monica Gornall. We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Mary Catherine Hegarty, Jo Clare Bolton.**

**Tom D'Arcys** Funeral will be at 11.00 am on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>  
(No Tuesday 9.30 am 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.

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

**Baptismal News** We welcome Evan and Georgia Hollinghurst who are to be baptised during the 10.30 mass today.

There will be no more **Tuesday masses** till mid January.

**Our Christmas Tree** -Special thanks to Eric and Betty Crook for our beautiful Christmas Tree -It is absolutely perfect. All your hard work is very gratefully appreciated.

**Christmas at School-** We say a very big thank-you to all our staff and pupils for inviting us to their advent and Christmas activities in church this month. The Infant Nativity, the Christmas Concert, The Pre-School Carol Service and the Junior Advent Service were very special. We wish all our School Community a Very Happy Christmas.

**Christmas Fair-** Grateful thanks to all who donated prizes, made cakes and helped at the Christmas Fair. We raised £220 for Parish fund.

### From the Archives

As we are now just a week away from Christmas Day, I thought it would be interesting to write about the origins of one of the best known Christmas Carols, with which you will all be very familiar. 'Silent Night', is sung in countries around the world and in 2011 it was declared an 'intangible cultural heritage' by UNESCO.

The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 at St Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf, a village in the Austrian Empire on the Salzach river, which is now in present-day Austria. A young priest, Father Joseph Mohr, had come to Oberndorf the year before. He had written the lyrics of the carol "Stille Nacht" in 1816 but had been unable to decide upon a melody to accompany them. In 1818, Fr.

Mohr brought the words to Franz Xaver Gruber, schoolmaster and organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf. Fr. Mohr asked Gruber to compose a melody, to be used for the first time at the Christmas Eve mass using his words. Unfortunately, legend has it that on Christmas Eve night the organ in the small church had been damaged by rodents which had eaten through the leather pipes. Not wishing to disappoint, Gruber performed the new carol playing the melody on guitar. The carol was so popular with the congregation, other parishes in the Alpine region soon adopted it and its fame quickly spread throughout Europe and beyond. The song has now been translated into about 140 different languages and recorded by many singers from every music genre. Episcopalian priest John Freeman Young wrote the English translation. It is this translation that is most popularly sung today. He translated it from three of Mohr's original six verses. The version sung by Bing Crosby remains the third best-selling single of all-time!

A direct translation of the first two verses of the original carol is slightly different to the now familiar translation you will no doubt know off by heart. Try to sing it yourself:

Silent night! Holy night!  
All are sleeping, alone and awake  
Only the intimate holy pair,  
Lovely boy with curly hair,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!  
Sleep in heavenly peace!

As this is my last archive article this year, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy and Joyful Christmas and a Prosperous and Peaceful 2023.

Mike Bryan