

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.

Attendance and Collection

8th Jan Attendance 66 Collection £180.00
15th Jan Attendance 43 Collection £116.00

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.

Cycle of Prayer - Sunday of the Word of God - 22nd January

Feast Days – Tues – St. Francis de Sales
Wed – THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL
Thurs – St. Wulstan
Sat – St. Agnes



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/>

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - The Word of God

22nd 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 Mary Theresa Griffiths & Basil Knight

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

Baptism

We welcome into our church family **Ava Parkin** who will be baptised today at 1.30pm. May God's light shine on her always.

From the Archives

This week I look back to the many priests that have served this parish since 1687, when the first chapel was established at White Hill by the Franciscans. Eleven Franciscan Priests served at White Hill during this very troubled and often dangerous period for Catholics; the mission finally closed in 1773. By this time the new chapel at The Hill had been built and the first parish priest Fr, Charles Willcock, came to live in the presbytery in 1770. He served for thirty-two years and was succeeded, in 1802 by the last Franciscan priest to serve here, Fr. Bonaventure Martin. Fr Martin remained here until 1834 when the parish was handed over to the Benedictine Order. The Benedictines remained until 1983 when the parish was taken over by the Lancaster Diocese. In total twenty-eight priests have served as PP since 1687.

Some of you may remember Fr. Alphonsus Richardson O.S.B., who was the incumbent at Hill Chapel from 1930 until 1966. I am grateful to Tom Ibison who recently gave me a copy of Fr. Richardson's obituary.

Fr. Richardson was born in Warrington on 3rd August 1882 and was educated at Ampleforth College owned and staffed by the Benedictines. He trained to be a teacher and taught for a short time after getting married. Very sadly his wife and child died within a short space of time, and it was then that his thoughts turned to the

priesthood. He returned to Ampleforth as a novice and was ordained priest in 1921 at the age of thirty-nine. During the next nine years he served in Wales and Liverpool before being sent to Goosnargh in 1930 where he spent the rest of his life. His obituary describes him as, 'The most methodical of men, he tackled all the parish problems with determination and soon had the property in perfect order. Each spring he set about beautifying the presbytery garden and church surrounds with like precision. Whittingham hospital also came under his care and the numerous patients were methodically looked after as were his Hill Chapel parishioners. In 1962, Fr. Richardson was named titular Prior of Chester as a reward for his devoted service to the Benedictine Order and to the Church. Until July 1966, although he was well into his eighties, he carried out his pastoral duties accurately and without help. However, in that month he strained his heart through attempting to lift a weight which was too heavy for him. His health declined quickly, and he died in the presbytery on 2nd August 1966; the feast of his patron, St. Alphonsus. His Requiem Mass was sung by the Abbot of Ampleforth in the presence of His Lordship the Bishop of Lancaster who conducted the committal ceremony in the parish graveyard'.

Fr. Richardson was a great servant of our parish and did much to maintain our beautiful church and grounds and to support and serve all the parishioners before, during and after WW2. May He rest In Peace.

Mike Bryan