

### **Attendance and Collection**

5th March Attendance 69 Collection £127.00

12th March Attendance 58 Collection £175.50 including baptism.

### **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**

Please pray for the Candidates for the Sacraments especially on the Sundays in Lent.

### **Easter Time at Hill Chapel**

Palm Sunday 10.30am

Maundy Thursday (Cloughton) 6.30pm

Good Friday 3 pm

Holy Saturday (Cloughton ) 7pm

Easter Sunday 10.30am

### **Brock Valley Churches Together**

Way of the Cross Walk on Good Friday is cancelled this year due to the retirement of Rev. Cooper. But Philip Rydeard will guide groups from St Francis's and St Thomas the Apostle on the walk. If you wish to take part meet at Bleasdale Parish Hall to start at 9.30am on Good Friday. Suitable footwear is necessary.



## **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/>

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - Sunday**

**26<sup>TH</sup> March - 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 Parish**

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially Bill Bamber, Lawrence Ibison, Monica Gornall, Shirley Walker & Constance Mary Barber

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially Joseph Anthony Melling

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 9.00am -Way of the cross .9.30am Mass

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**

### **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?](http://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**

This week I continue to focus on the plight of Catholics during penal times when anyone caught practising the catholic faith faced arrest and possible execution. Despite this very real threat, Catholicism in the area continued to thrive. Many young Catholic men travelled to the continent to be ordained a priest, knowing that when they returned, they faced being tracked down and arrested by a large network of spies, or 'Watchers' as they became known, working on behalf of Queen Elizabeth I. Keen to preserve the supremacy of Protestant Church of England. the queen herself, was under threat from a series of Catholic plots to replace her with the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots.

As a great-granddaughter of [Henry VII of England](#), Mary had once claimed Elizabeth's throne as her own and was considered the legitimate sovereign of England by many [English Catholics](#), including participants in a rebellion known as the [Rising of the North](#). Perceiving Mary as a threat, Elizabeth had her confined in various castles and manor houses in the interior of England. After eighteen and a half years in captivity Mary was found guilty of [plotting to assassinate Elizabeth](#) and was beheaded in 1586 at [Fotheringhay Castle](#). Mary's life and subsequent execution established her [in popular Catholic culture](#) as the legitimate sovereign and, as such, Elizabeth found herself still in danger from Catholic plotters. Those working on her behalf became even more determined to hunt down Catholic priests and those found protecting them. For many years Robert and William Cecil controlled this spy network on behalf of the queen. Another crucial figure was Sir Francis Walsingham, who ran the Secret Service as well as serving as Secretary of State during times of international conflict, including the Spanish Armada. However,

perhaps one of the most interesting of Elizabeth's famous spies was John Dee. When spying from the Spanish Court, Dee signed each private letter to Elizabeth with the insignia '007'; later to be borrowed by Ian Fleming in his creation of James Bond.

The impact of Elizabeth's spy masters was felt most severely in Lancashire where thirty-four Catholics were martyred for their faith, seventeen of these perished at Lancaster Castle. Amongst them were two priests with a close connection to Goosnargh, Fr. Thomas Whittaker and Fr Germanus Helme.

Fr Whittaker was born in Burnley to a Catholic family closely related to the Townleys. He studied for the priesthood at Valladolid and, on his return, worked for five years serving Catholic families in the Goosnargh and Claughton areas. He was arrested at Blacke Hall, Langley Lane, in Goosnargh, but escaped whilst being conducted to Lancaster. He was again seized by the 'Watchers' and spent six weeks in solitary confinement before being executed at Lancaster Castle. He was beatified alongside George Beesley in November 1987. Fr Germanus Helme, served as a Franciscan priest at White Hill, and he was also the first resident priest at Lee house in Thornley.

After the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, there was a renewed attack against Lancashire Catholics, who were accused of supporting the Stuart rebels. A mob came out and arrested Fr Helme at Lee house and he was taken to the dungeons at Lancaster Castle where he died after four months of extremely harsh treatment and deprivation. He is reputedly the most recent of England's martyrs, dying for his faith in 1746. His ghost is reputed to have been seen in our own presbytery at Hill Chapel!

Mike Bryan