

Attendance and Collection

30th April Attendance 62 Collection £184.00

7th May Attendance 58 Collection £168.00

We are resuming collections during the mass. We are asking for volunteers to collect - please contact Maria or Bernadette if interested.

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

The Church - especially at Pentecost

Feast Days

Mon- The Blessed Virgin Mary – Mother of the Church

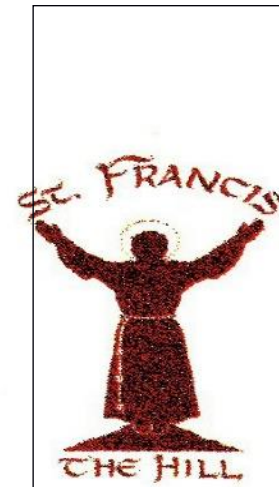
Wed – VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thurs – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals is a Catholic Charity that gives a free nutritious meal to over 2.4 million children every school day in over 18 countries. This encourages them into the classroom, giving them energy to learn in school and build a ladder out of poverty. It costs £19.15 to feed a child for a whole school year, just 10p per meal. That's small change, with a big impact. **We are asking all parishioners to donate £1. This will enable us to provide 2 or 3 children with a meal a day for a year. Mary's meals will then send us a First Communion Card saying that our parish has given this gift on behalf of our First Communicants.** They will all have this card as a memento of how we are spreading God's love in our world today.

There is a 'Mary's Meals' collection box at the back of church. If you would be able to donate £1– we would be extremely grateful. Thank You!



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

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PENTECOST – Prayer for the Church 28th May - 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 Intention 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 Mary Barber as well as Birdie Platt, Paul Bamber & Magi Clabrough.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially Thomas Gornall, Reginald Thomas Middleton & Sylvia Jean Leach.

On Tuesday 30th May 9.00 am Adoration and Mass @ 9.30am.

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.

May Procession

Congratulations to the school children who all took part in the May Procession last Tuesday .They sang with such enthusiasm as they crowned Our Lady, while she looked upon all their beautiful flowers laid at her feet.

Gardening News

As we approach Summer the gardens at Hill Chapel really do look beautiful. Grateful thanks to the gardening team for all their hard work and effort. Maintaining the church grounds is a big task and we are always on the look out for more volunteers. If you feel you would be able to help - do contact Frank or Margaret Ashton.

We do all work together, supporting, planting and planning. We are always open to new suggestions so if you have any thoughts or offers of help - please do share those with us - we would love to hear from you.
Many Thanks

The Gardening Team

Stonyhurst College Open Days

This summer's museum and library open days at Stonyhurst college are now available for booking on the Stonyhurst website <https://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/about-us/stonyhurst-college-historic-collections/exhibitions/a-summer-of-shakespeare>

From the Archives

I am grateful to John Waddingham for passing on to me a Daily Telegraph article about our Patron Saint, St Francis of Assisi. The article, which takes up two pages of the newspaper, focuses upon an exhibition of paintings and writings which are on display in the National Gallery in London until July 6th. The exhibition is extraordinary because it focuses not just upon a single artist but on a single figure who inspired, and continues to inspire, so many across the world. Ann Wroe, who wrote the article for The Telegraph, states, *'although St. Francis died in 1226, he has become for the modern world the quintessential eco-saint, the patron of the environmental movement and a model of a life based on love for all creation'*.

One of the paintings exhibited in the national gallery, shows Francis, in a field of flowers, barefoot, smiling, with deer and birds around him, all waiting for his instructions. It represents an image of our time, of a communion with nature. Another, perhaps one of the most tender paintings, shows him talking, hand in paw with a raging wolf, inspiring the animal to be more gentle. In his most famous and possibly his greatest piece of writing, 'The Canticle of the Sun', St Francis teaches that the earth must be trodden on with great care. Each sentence begins with 'Laudato si', (praise to you), a phrase borrowed by Pope Francis for the title of his 2015 encyclical on green matters. During his short life, (St Francis died at the age of forty-two), his passion for nature, for the earth and peace upon it, led him to challenge those around him to live a simpler life. His sermons drew enormous, enthusiastic crowds all over Tuscany and Umbria. His message was uncompromising, the way to heaven and to God, was to give things up; to be like him consumed with the needs of others rather than himself. His listeners felt blessed by him, but few could follow the path he insisted upon.

The impact of the exhibition is described as both religious and ecological. Perhaps now, more than ever before, when global warming, deforestation and political conflict threaten the very existence of our planet, St Francis continues to challenge us. Mankind has the power, if only it can embrace it, to bring about the change we seek. To embrace peace rather than war, a simple lifestyle rather than unnecessary luxuries, and to care for others and for the environment we are the custodians of. Our Patron saint is no easy saint to follow, but through him we can also discover the preciousness of everyday wonders, of water, rocks and stars, of herbs and creatures, and our fellow beings.

Ann Wroe is the author of 'Francis A Life in Songs'. The St Francis of Assisi Exhibition is at the National Gallery, London, WC2 until 6th July.

Mike Bryan