

Attendance and Collection 2nd Feb Attendance 76 Collection £168.00

9th Feb Attendance 78 Collection £178.00

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.

Feast Days - Thurs –St. Gregory of Narek

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this Jubilee Year our annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine to Our Blessed Lady, will take place 20-24 October 2025. I invite you to join me! A Jubilee Year is a moment of grace in the life of the Church. The practice finds its roots in the Old Testament covenant made between God and his people, Israel. It was a time of redemption, a moment when land and property were returned to their original owners and slaves were set free (Leviticus 25). In Luke's Gospel it is no small thing that Jesus' first public proclamation, which took place in the Synagogue in Nazareth, recalls the prophetic words of Isaiah with the promise of a "year of favour from the Lord" (Is 61:1-2).

This year of favour, this Jubilee Year, will find the Church proclaiming the Gospel afresh, proclaiming liberty from the darkness of sin and healing, both physical and spiritual, for those who are oppressed (Lk 4:18-19). Our pilgrimage to Walsingham is therefore an excellent way to mark this time of grace, both as a diocese and individually.

Some of you are familiar with Walsingham. For others, it will be your first visit. In the Middle Ages, the Shrine was one of the great ancient Marian places of pilgrimage in the whole of Christendom. It is known as England's very own Nazareth and is a place where the incarnation of Jesus is particularly remembered. Therefore, for the modern pilgrim, it is a place for all who would rejoice with Mary at 'the great joy of the Annunciation.' Like Lourdes in France, it is a place of reconciliation, conversion, peace and healing.

The all-inclusive cost is £475.00-£550.00 (dependent on accommodation type). Coach collection/drop-off will take place in Workington, Carlisle, Penrith, Lancaster and Preston. Fr Billing is the Rector and is a wonderful host for us, coming as we do from his home Diocese. He is keen to open the treasure of Walsingham to pilgrims who have never been before as well as those of us who are regular pilgrims. It is also an opportunity to support him in his national role.

For more information and booking details contact the pilgrimage organiser Deacon Charlie Conner on 07895 742 732 or email charlie.conner@lrdc.org.uk

The places will be limited, so please book in good time. +Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick Bishop of Lancaster



St Francis Hill Chapel
Parish Newsletter

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Telephone: 01772 865229
Clergy: Fr Sony Jose Kadamthodu

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative –Maria Peel

Sunday 23rd February 2025

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings – Year C

Mass 10.30am

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.

Mass intention is for members of the Bolton & Wells Family

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially

Bill Bamber, Shirley Walker & Frank Morris

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially

Annie Bennett & Derek Ogden,

Tea and Coffee will be served after Sunday Mass.

New Missal Request

There is now a new Lectionary in use for all masses. The Lectionary (Missal) contains the scripture readings for Mass and is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. We will need a missal for the altar for the three liturgical years . We will also need new mass books. It is a costly purchase which will come to a total of £2000. We are asking if anyone would be willing to sponsor the New Missal fund. We will be giving envelopes after mass today with a form inside giving further details if you are able to help. It is a big expenditure for our parish when we are committed to raise funds for the Church Roof Appeal. Any donation would be very gratefully received and thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Roof Restoration Project Newsletter Number 12 - Sunday 23rd February 2025

On Monday 17th February I attended a site meeting with our conservation architect and the site supervisor. The project is going to plan and things are moving along at a pace. The roof is now structurally sound without the support of the temporary prop. Work to install the new ceiling is well underway and in the next few days the new slates are due to be fitted to the roof. By the end of March, the clean-up operation will begin inside the building and the furniture reinstalled. By the second week of April, we hope to be able to gain access to the church to replace the statues and portable furnishings that are currently stored in the presbytery. The rededication of the church by Bishop Paul will be held on Sunday 27th April.

I am pleased to say that St Francis' is now an official member of the National Churches Trust. Our parish is now featured on the NCT website and we will now be able to access help and support with our events and church maintenance from the Trust. To view the parish information pages, please copy the following link into your browser:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/goosnargh-st-francis-hill-chapel>

VAT Historic Churches Reclaim Scheme

You will recall that we were extremely concerned that the VAT reclaim scheme was to end on the 1st of April. During the present financial year, we will have claimed approximately £63,000 back in VAT from the government. The good news is that the scheme has been extended for another twelve months but with a much-reduced budget. Churches will then only be able to reclaim £25,000 in any one year, clearly far less money available than at present. My thanks to all those parishioners who contacted their M.P. about the possible closure of the scheme. A parliamentary debate was held earlier this year in Westminster Hall and attended by officers of the N.C.T. In the report I received from the Trust the C.E.O. wrote:

'What was clear from the Westminster Hall debate was just how many people and churches had contacted their MPs about the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme. We are very grateful to everyone who did this; it made a significant difference. Not only did it encourage a variety of MPs from different parties to attend, but it also meant that MPs highlighted many examples of churches in their own constituencies in their speeches. Our research was quoted by MPs during the debate, as they made the case for why the scheme should be renewed and to show the importance of church buildings in communities today. Thank you for all you are doing in support of our work'.

Claire Walker Chief Executive

Mike Bryan