

Rededication of Readers and Ministers

The rededication of Readers and Ministers will take place during mass on Sunday 23rd November . If anyone would like to become a reader or eucharistic minister please speak to Father before this date so you can be included.

Attendance and Collection

5th Oct Attendance 215 Collection £274.00
12th Oct Attendance 79 Collection £202.00
19th Oct Collection £239.00 (Claughton)

People 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

Mon - St. Leo the Great
Tues – St. Martin of Tours
Wed – St. Josaphat
Sat – St. Albert the Great

Valley Singers Concert Thank you to everyone who supported the Valley Singers Concert. £572.00 towards the Church Roof Appeal

Collection Box The Collection Box at the Whittingham Shop brought in £34.20

Christmas Meal This years Christmas Meal will be held at The Cross Keys at Whitechapel on Sunday, 7th December at 12 noon. Please see Bernadette or Maria if you would like to attend.

Diary Dates

Sunday 7th December : Christmas Meal

Sunday 14th December: Family Mass followed by Christmas Fair in school

Brock Valley Churches Together Carol Singing

All welcome at both events, please come and join in with our friends from St Mary's and Trinity Methodist.

On Saturday 6th December, 11.00am - 12.00 noon, at Goosnargh Farmers Market, Whittingham Social Club.

Singing outside so wrap up warm. Carol sheets provided.

Thursday 11th December, 7.00pm at The Grapes, Goosnargh.' Goosnargh Sings Christmas' Singing inside. Carol sheets provided.



St Francis Hill Chapel

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Parish Safeguarding Representative –Maria Peel

Sunday 9th November 2025

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Remembrance Sunday

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 John and Vicky Livesley who are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially

Bill Bamber, Shirley Walker & Frank Morris

Coffee and tea will be served at the back of church after mass.

November - In this month we remember our beloved ones who are departed and pray for them

The month November is set apart for All Souls who have gone for their eternal reward, and who are currently in a state of ongoing purification.

The Catholic Church teaches that not everyone who dies in God's grace is immediately ready for the Beatific Vision, that is, the direct experience of God and His perfect nature in heaven. So they must be purified of "lesser faults"; and the temporal punishment due to sin in a place or state of purification.

The Catholic teaching on Purgatory essentially requires belief in two realities: 1) that there will be a purification of believers prior to entering Heaven and 2) that the prayers and Masses of the faithful in some way benefit those in the state of purification. Said Pope St. John Paul II: "Before we enter into God's kingdom, every trace of sin within us must be eliminated, every imperfection in our soul must be corrected" (CCC #1030-1032).

St. Faustina Kowalska — the Polish mystic and apostle of Divine Mercy — wrote quite a bit about the souls in purgatory in her Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul. Her writings reveal both her compassion for them and what Jesus showed her about their suffering and hope.

Here are key points and excerpts from her Diary:

1. The Souls in Purgatory Suffer but Are Deeply Loved by God

"I saw my Guardian Angel, who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a misty place full of fire, and there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently, but to no avail for themselves; only we can come to their aid."— Diary, §20

Faustina was shown that the souls suffer spiritually — a deep longing for God and purification by love — rather than a physical fire. They are consoled by the certainty that they will one day be with God.

2. The Souls Can't Help Themselves

"The flames which were burning them did not touch me at all. My Guardian Angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God."— Diary, §20

They cannot lessen their own suffering but depend on the prayers, sacrifices, and acts of mercy of the faithful on earth.

3. Our Prayers Greatly Help Them

"I saw my deceased confessor... He told me that he was suffering in purgatory and asked that I offer for him one day of my prayers and works and all my sufferings on that day. I did so, and I saw him the next day radiant and beautiful, already in heaven."— Diary, §178

Faustina emphasized that even small offerings — a prayer, a Holy Mass, or an act of mercy — can bring great relief to souls.

4. Jesus Urged Her to Pray for Them

"My mercy does not want this, but justice demands it. Since you are in the world, you will go to purgatory in spirit and there you will bring down My mercy on those souls who are there."

From the Archives - Remembrance Day 9th November 2025

Each year on Remembrance Sunday I focus upon one of the eleven servicemen named on our internal war memorial, who lost their lives in the service of our country during two world wars. All, at some stage in their short lives, were parishioners at Hill Chapel. In the early years after the wars these men would have been fondly remembered by their families, friends and parishioners. A century later, however, many of their identities and life stories had been forgotten. In 2018, I decided to research the eight names which appear on our external war memorial which was erected in 1922. During my

research I identified three other servicemen from St Francis' parish who were killed in action, one from WW1, and two from WW2. Their names are shown on our internal memorial which was installed in 2018.

If you would like to know more about the lives and background of these men, archive documents are available to borrow or to view should you wish to do so. They include census returns, marriage certificates, attestation and service records, Commonwealth War Grave details, and copies of wills and accounts of conflicts linked to both wars.

William Holden 1879 – 1914

William Holden was born into a farming family at Higher Syke House Farm, Goosnargh in 1879. He was baptised at Hill Chapel where the family worshiped. In 1906 he married and gained employment at the Lancaster Asylum. He had 4 children the youngest born just four months before the outbreak of war. In 1914, life for the Holden family was to be torn apart when Richard volunteered, the day after war was declared in August. He joined the 2nd Battalion the Scots Guards as Private, 2599. His attestation papers show that he was 5'8" tall with a fresh complexion, grey eyes, fair hair and a scar above his right eye. He was to serve with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium; like many others, he thought he would be home by Christmas.

The 1st Battalion, part of the 1st (Scots Guards) Brigade, arrived in France in 1914. The Battalion took part in the Battle of Mons in August 1914, the First Battle of the Marne in September 1914 and the Battle of the Aisne also in September 1914.

Men from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, which would have included Richard, then took part in the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914. British casualties from 14 October – 30 November were 58,155, sadly Richard was amongst them. He was killed on 25th November 1914 and has no known grave.

Richard is remembered with honour on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Comines-Warneton, Belgium. The memorial bears the names of 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African Forces who died in this sector during WW1 and have no known grave. Richard's name can be seen on Stone No. 1.H. Richard was awarded the 1914 Star and the Victory Medal. He left all his effects to his widow. R.I.P. Mike Bryan

