

### **Thank You from Longridge Community Foodbank**

Longridge Community Foodbank (formerly Ribble Valley Foodbank) collected our foodbank donations this week and were so grateful for your generosity. Our donations weighed in at over 39kg. The team at the foodbank have asked me to pass on their heartfelt thanks.

We are continuing to collect for the foodbank throughout the winter season. If you have any items for the foodbank – please add to the box at the back of church

### **Attendance and Collection**

16th Nov Attendance 84 Collection £276.00

23rd Nov Attendance 79 Collection £207.00

**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**

Fri – ST STEPHEN

Sat – ST.JOHN

Sun – THE HOLY FAMILY

Mon – ST. THOMAS BECKET

Thurs – MARY MOTHER OF GOD - Solemnity



## **St Francis Hill Chapel**



The Hill, Horns Lane, Goosnargh  
Preston PR32FJ

Telephone: 01772 865229  
Clergy: Fr Sony Jose Kadamthodu

StFrancis.Goosnargh@lrcd.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative –Maria Peel

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Carols - 4.00pm Mass - 4.30pm**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS DAY**

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Mass – 10.30am**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December - THE HOLY FAMILY**

**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.*

**Christmas Eve Mass is for Ruth Doyle**

**Christmas Day Mass is for the deceased members of the  
Clarkson and Ibison families**

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially  
Bill Bamber, Shirley Walker & Frank Morris

We remember Jo Clare Bolton, Ruth Doyle, Thomas Gornall, Edith Morris,  
Mary Alice March, Joan Marjorie Crawley, Barbara Jean Cuff & Margaret  
Dorothy Akers whose anniversaries occurs around this time .

## **Happy Christmas to all our parishioners**

Thank you everyone for your support over the past year. Wishing you all a very Holy and Happy Christmas.

## **From the Archives**

First of all, may I wish you all a Very Happy, Peaceful Christmas and New Year period.

As we come to the end of 2025, I cannot help looking back on what has been a truly historic and eventful year for our diocese and for our own parish here at Hill Chapel. The Lancaster diocese celebrated its centenary with many special events at the cathedral and around the parishes. Here at St Francis', we have had much to celebrate and be thankful for. At Christmas time last year, the church was closed, it was covered inside and outside with scaffolding and all the slates had been stripped off the roof. We celebrated this most holy season with masses at Claughton and in our school here at The Hill. The church remained closed for the next five months whilst the architect, Dominic Roberts and the main contractor, Austin Watson Ltd, totally repaired and restored our church to the beautiful building that we have today. In May we witnessed the rededication of the church by Bishop Swarbrick, a unique, 'once in a lifetime' celebration that the majority of other parishes will never witness. The bishop was here again in July to confirm twenty-five of our young people; in June, nineteen children received their first communion. Since the church reopened many babies and children have been baptised and welcomed as new Catholics into our parish community. Sadly, we have lost several old friends. R.I.P.

Hill Chapel might only be a small rural parish but it has a fantastic Christian, Catholic community; long may it continue! As

we move towards 2026, I share with you a poem of Joy that I recently received from Fr Pat McMahon, perhaps the message it gives could be our parish New Year Resolution. Thank you for reading my articles this year.

Mike Bryan

## **JOY**

One joy scatters 1,000 sorrows.  
Joy is grinning on the inside.  
Live and work, but don't forget to enjoy yourself.  
I asked God for all the things I needed to enjoy life:  
    He gave me life that I might enjoy all things.  
Those who are joyful cannot keep it to themselves.  
Sad? Start with one joy and build on it.  
Joy is infectious; infect others; allow others to infect you.  
For one minute of anger, we lose 60 seconds of joy.  
If we don't express our joy, we cease to feel it.  
Joy is to be used for a purpose.  
I want to use all of it before I leave this life.  
Lord, help me to be joyful in the morning.  
Instead of saying, '*Good God! It's morning!*'  
- may I say, '*Thank God! It's morning!*'  
What a wonderful life I have had; I wish I had enjoyed it sooner.  
Joy keeps the face and heart young.  
Enjoy your life without comparing it to others.  
We are not properly dressed until we adorn ourselves with joy.

(Number of Biblical references: - Joy: 346; Rejoice: 120)

