

### Our Church Website

Please note our website address is <http://stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk> . Many thanks to Joseph Jacob for all his work in creating the new website.

### Attendance and Collection

4th Jan Attendance 66 Collection £290.40

11th Jan Attendance 67 Collection £268.80

18th Jan Attendance 77 Collection £353.50 including baptism

**People who are Unwell** If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please notify Father Sony on 01772 865229

### Feast Days

Tues – St. Scholastica

Wed – OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Sat - STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS

### Cycle of Prayer

Sunday 8th Feb – Victims of Human Trafficking and those who work to combat it. .

### Longridge Foodbank Appeal

So many people in our local area are really struggling to make ends meet. If you are able any items for the foodbank, it really would make a difference.

### Winckley Square Old School Reunion

Sat Feb 21st from 1.30pm. Our Lady and St. Edwards Church Hall, Marlborough Drive Fulwood.

### Catholic Family Retreat at Castlerigg Manor // March 27-29th // £160-230 per family-

For the first time since Covid, Castlerigg Manor are bringing back their popular family retreats. There will be streams for different ages and fun activities for everybody including Mass in the evening and time to explore Keswick. For more info

>> [castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> events

**May Half Term B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor** - In May half-term, Castlerigg Manor (Catholic retreat centre in Keswick, Cumbria) will once again be opening their doors for B&B stays. A great way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to get an affordable stay in Keswick. Mass will be provided on site. For more info

>> [castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> stay with us



**St  
Francis Hill Chapel**

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Clergy: Fr  
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**Sunday 8th February  
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking  
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.*

Today's Mass is being offered for **Joan Gornall**

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

We remember Joan Marshall Gornall whose anniversary occurs  
around this time.

There will be mass on Tuesday morning @ 9.30am

Tea & Coffee will be served at the back of church after Sunday mass

## **Society Of African Missions**

Father Dampson visited us last week and celebrated mass . Thank you for your kind donations that will support the valuable work the SMA community undertakes .

## **Sacramental Programme**

If your child does not attend our school and would like to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist, our sacramental programme is starting in February. Please say Mary Doran for further details. ([mfdoran@btinternet.com](mailto:mfdoran@btinternet.com))

## **Caring for the Graves**

In the interest of keeping the graveyard looking tidy and at its best . We would like to remind you that like last year, all Christmas wreaths and decorations to be removed by Saturday 7th February 2026. Any remaining will be removed and disposed of by the gardeners . Besides tidying the graves, we would like also to remind people that pots and flowers are to be contained within the stone plinth(all as the grave stone regulations ).This will greatly assist in mowing around and between the graves . Thank you for your cooperation . It's very much appreciated .

## **From the Parish Property Group**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The property group has been made aware that there are a few issues with the pointing on the outside of the church bell tower. Members had hoped that work could be delayed until later this year, however, last week I received an email from the Historic Churches Trust , (short extract below) urging parishes to commission and complete any work necessary before the VAT reclaim system for listed places of worship ends on the 31<sup>st</sup>, March 2026.

The work at Hill Chapel will not be enormously expensive but, if we fail to meet the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March, a significant amount of VAT will be payable.

Fr Sony has given his permission for the work on the bell tower to go ahead and with this in mind a start date of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February has been agreed with Austin Watson Ltd. The work will require the erection of scaffolding to the front of the church; this will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our

architect, Dominic Roberts will then be able to complete an accurate scope of work and work can start immediately. It should not take more than a couple of weeks to complete and will not involve the closure of the church. However, once the scaffolding is in place all those coming to church or working in the gardens must take extra care when passing near to or when entering the building. There will be no Tuesday morning mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

In addition to the work on the bell tower, we also need to make a few alterations to the loft access hatch which is sited in the ceiling of the balcony. This work will possibly begin before the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and it may require the temporary closure of the balcony until the work is completed. I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

### **Extract from the Historic Churches Trust to all Listed Places of Worship.**

**The VAT reclaim scheme for listed places of worship will close to all new applications at 23:59 on 31 March 2026. Claims submitted after this date will not be processed. Please note that the 2025/26 scheme is subject to a total budget of £23 million. If this budget is exhausted before 31 March, the scheme will be closed when it ends, or when the budget runs out, whichever is earlier.**

**It is possible that claims could be put into the Department before it has become clear the budget is exhausted. In that instance, claims received will be worked through in the order received, and those that are processed after the budget is exhausted will not be paid. If the application is put in for more funding than remains, only part of the claim would be paid. The applicant will be made aware.**

Mike Bryan Property Group Chair

