

Our Church Website

Please note our website address is StFrancis.Goosnargh@lrcd.org.uk Many thanks to Joseph Jacobs for all his work in creating the new website.

Attendance and Collection

25th Jan Attendance 92 Collection £327.10
1st Feb Attendance 70 Collection £353.58
8th Feb Attendance 86 Collection £244.00

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

Is it allowed the novel practice of removing holy water from the stoops during Lent?

In recent years, some Catholic churches have initiated the practice of emptying the holy fonts during Lent, to evoke a sense of the stark desert in which Jesus prayed and fasted for 40 days.

The novel practise of removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:

1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being 'praeter legem' is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.
2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The 'fast' and 'abstinence' which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church.

The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday).

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 >> events



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

Sunday 8th March 3rd Sunday of Lent 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 **Bill Bamber**

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

We welcome into our church family **Dexter Murphy** who will be baptised during mass today. May God's light shine on him always

There will be no Mass at 9.30am on Tuesday due to the funeral mass.

There will be a funeral mass for **Bill Bamber** @ 11am on Tuesday
10th March

Next Sunday 15th March is Mother's Day and it will be **Family Mass.**

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

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY – Friday 27th February

Many thanks to all who have returned their Family Fast envelopes today. There are envelopes at the back of church if you did not receive one last week. You can also donate to CAFOD by using the card reader machine – also located at the back of church. Could any envelopes be returned by next Sunday 15th March . Many thanks for your support.

Longridge Foodbank Collection

Anthony Eccles – from Longridge Foodbank collected our food donations last week. He collected 35kg of donations and has asked me to pass on thanks to everyone at St Francis. Their generosity is very much appreciated. We are continuing to collect for Longridge during Lent.

Saturday 11th April

Caroline and Tom Luke have kindly offered to open their garden to raise parish funds.

We would like donations of homemade cakes and pies and raffle tickets. If you can help .please put your name on the list at the back of church .

Papal Curiosities

When did the Vatican establish a post office?

The Vatican Post Office dates to the fourteenth century, when a pony-express system carried pontifical messages to all parts of Italy. Located just inside Saint Anne's Gate, the Vatican's main post office handles about 2 million postcards, and over 15,000 packages. Generally speaking, its post office is efficient and reliable-and many Romans have come to learn that if they go to the trouble of mailing a letter on Vatican grounds, delivery will be faster and safer.

The Vatican Post Office shows an annual profit, but this comes mainly from the sale of commemorative stamps and issues of Vatican coins and medals. Only once did the Vatican Post Office oversubscribe itself on the printing of a postage stamp. During the 1875 Holy Year, nearly a million unsold Vatican stamps of Pope Paul VI had to be burned.

Where does the Vatican store its white elephants?

The Vatican has a junk shop. In a converted palace called the Floreria are all the things the Vatican does not need anymore but does not want to throw away. In this Vatican "warehouse" can be found portable thrones no longer used; dinner services once used for Vatican banquets; the busts of forgotten cardinals; an array of fans from Persia (they were waved over the pontiff's portable throne before the days of air-conditioning); some badly executed statues of the Virgin Mary; so many carpets that all count has been lost; gilded chairs for dignitaries; coaches adorned with gilded door handles and equipped with a single throne as the back seat; all the abandoned furniture of dead popes- such things as rickety bedside tables, wobbly stools, brass beds (all neatly labeled with the names of their past owners). There is also a collection of bad paintings, many of them gift to the papacy. Notable among these is one that hung in the Vatican Museum for over 100 years. Presented to Pope Pius IX by Queen Christine of Spain in 1850, The Mystic Marriage of Saint Catherine was attributed by art experts to the seventeenth-century Spanish painter Bartolome Esteban Murillo. When the so-called Murillo masterpiece was found to be a counterfeit, it got stored away in the Floreria.

