

## Easter Dates

### Hill Chapel :

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Good Friday @ 3pm

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday @10.30pm followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

### Cloughton :

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Holy Thursday @ 6.30pm followed by watching at the altar of repose until 9pm

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Vigil @7pm

## Our Church Website

Please note our website address is [stfrancisgoosnargh.co.uk](http://stfrancisgoosnargh.co.uk) Many thanks to Joseph Jacobs for all his work in creating the new website.

## Feast Days

Tues – ST. PATRICK

Thurs – ST. JOSEPH

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

## **CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Final reminder about returning family Fast envelopes. Many thanks for your support.

## **Longridge Foodbank Collection**

We are continuing to collect for Longridge Foodbank during Lent.

	<h2>St Francis Hill Chapel</h2> <p>The Hill, Horns Lane, Goosnargh Preston PR32FJ</p> <p>Telephone: 01772 865229 Clergy: Fr Sony Jose Kadamthodu</p> <p>StFrancis.Goosnargh@lrcd.org.uk</p> <p>Parish Safeguarding Representative –Maria Peel</p>
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## **Sunday 15th March 4th Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday Mothering Sunday Family Mass 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 the people of the parish

We pray for all who are hirley Walker & Frank Morris.

We remember Lara Kristie Jones , Dominic Flynn, June Gornall, John Richardson & Mary Josephine Clarkson whose anniversaries occur around this time.

There will be Mass at 9.30am on Tuesday - Stations of the Cross 9.15  
Confession available after mass

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

### **First Communion Programme.**

We have 21 children preparing to receive First Holy Communion on Sunday June 7th. The children are from St Francis Parish and St Thomas' Parish Cloughton. Please remember them in your prayers.

### **Mass Intentions**

Fr Sony Joseph has only a few Mass intentions remaining for specific dates. All Mass offerings and intentions are warmly welcome. If you would like a Mass to be offered on a particular day, please inform Fr Sony or place the intention, along with the offering and details in an envelope on the collection plate at the back of the church.

### **Gift Aid**

This makes a significant difference to our parish income at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate. Please consider setting up a Standing Order. If you attend Hill Chapel Church you can also register a payment card to use on the card reader, either online or directly on the reader itself.

### **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 .

### **From the Archives – Mothering Sunday**

The celebration of what we now know as Mothering Sunday in the UK goes back to the time of early Christians who celebrated a 'Mothers' Festival' on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honour of Our Lady. Christians would visit the church of their baptism (Mother Church) to

attend Holy Mass and then, if their mother was still alive, enjoy a short period of time with them. Others would pray and lay flowers at their mother's grave.

It is perhaps hard to imagine now but in the 1600s, many children after the age of nine or ten, left their homes for jobs as apprentices or domestic servants\*\*. Some would work for as many as eighty hours a week with very little reward other than food and lodging. However, it was considered important by the people employing them that the children be allowed to visit their home and mother church once a year. Accordingly, on mid-Lent Sunday the children were given leave by their employers to visit their "Mother Church" or Cathedral of their hometown. Despite a very long journey, for many children on foot, these children would bring along gifts, wild-flowers and special cakes, often made by their employers, for their mothers. These visits thus became a time for family reunions, and, over a period time, this holiday which originally was meant for the return to Mother Church, was commercialised to simply include a celebration of all mothers and became known as Mothering Sunday. I wish all mothers a Very Happy Mothering Sunday!

**\*\*Child Exploitation** Despite massive child labour exploitation, it was not until two important pieces of legislation – the Factory Act (1833) and the Mines Act (1842) that any government action was taken. However, the Factory Act only prohibited the employment of children younger than nine years of age and limited the hours that children between nine and thirteen could work. Even today child labour exploitation continues in the UK. An analysis of government statistics has revealed that the number of children feared to be victims of labour exploitation has risen by more than 60 per cent in the past few years. A total of 8,156 referrals were made to the National Referral Mechanism reporting exploitation of adults and children within the UK between October 2023 and September 2024; 4,697 of these referrals reported exploitation of a child. However, the hidden nature of modern slavery makes the accurate measurement of true victim numbers difficult. A very sad situation in such a prosperous country as ours.

Mike Bryan