

Mass arrangement on the day of Ascension

Vigil mass is at Claughton (13th May) @7.30pm and on the day of Ascension @ 9.30am at Hill Chapel

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 Claughton. Please remember them in your prayers.

Longridge Foodbank Collection

We are continuing to collect for Longridge Foodbank .

Church Website our new website address- stfrancisgoosnargh.co.uk

Attendance and Collection

Easter Sunday Attendance 118 Collection £414.00
12th Apr Attendance 65 Collection £249.65
19th Apr Attendance 74 Collection £349.20

Feast days

Mon- THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

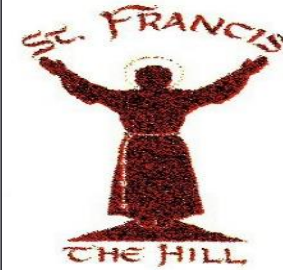
People who are Unwell. If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please notify Father Sony on 01772 865229

DAY OF DISCERNMENT for those considering a vocation to the priesthood.

Saturday 30 May 12.15pm – 2.30pm

THINKING OF BEING A PRIEST? Come to the day of recollection and discernment!

The day is for single men 16 years or over who are considering priesthood: **Saturday 30 May 12.15pm – 2.30pm at St Peter's Cathedral, Balmoral Road, Lancaster LA1 3BT.** Gather in the Cathedral for Mass at 12.15, followed by lunch and meeting with Bishop Paul. To book email Heather: Heather.Watts@lrcd.org.uk or Tel: 01524 841190. There is no charge. As well as meeting the Bishop, you will have the opportunity to get to know how discernment works and who can assist you. You will also meet many others from across the Diocese of Lancaster exploring a vocation to priesthood



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 3rd May 2026

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 unwell in our parish especially
Shirley Walker & Frank Morris.

We remember Micheal D'Arcy, Dorothy Walton, Mary Josephine Wood & William Raymond Shorrock whose anniversaries occur around this time

There will be No mass on Tuesday 5th May .

Ascension day - Vigil mass is at Claughton (13th May) @7.30pm and on the day of Ascension @ 9.30am at Hill Chapel

Tea and coffee will be served at the back of church after mass

Coming into church

We are asking for a quiet peaceful prayerful atmosphere at the beginning of each mass. There will be spiritual music playing beforehand. We do appreciate your understanding so people can have time for individual prayer before mass.

May Procession

There will be a May procession on Tuesday May 19th where the children will process from school to church for a celebration. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

There will also be a crowning of Mary and a procession at the end of mass on Sunday 17th May

Tomato plants for sale

To help raise funds for the church Dot Eastham will be selling outdoor sweet cherry tomato plants for £1.50 each.

Simple care needed- no pruning –no watering

Contact Dot at church . Thank you

Sign of the Cross

The first certain evidence we have of the use of this sign is from the ecclesiastical writer Tertullian (230 AD) who tells us that candidates for baptism are marked with a sign of the cross on their foreheads during the course of their catechumenate (formation). This doesn't mean that it was not made earlier, since as I will show it has very Jewish roots.

The Jews of Jesus' time (and orthodox Jews still do this) had the practice of wearing certain Scripture texts in a little box on their arms and on their foreheads. They got the idea from several passages in the Law, in particular Deut. 6:4-8:

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD our God is one. Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy

or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead."

In this passage the first verse (the "Shema Israel") is tantamount to Judaism's Creed - the Lord is one. This basic truth of one God who is Lord of Israel set the People of the Old Covenant apart from the unbelieving "nations" or Gentiles.

Later in history God will say, "Pass through the city (through Jerusalem) and put a mark on the foreheads of those who moan and groan over all the abominations that are practiced within it" (Ezekiel 9:4). Here Ezekiel is speaking of the remnant of the people of God who remain faithful, to set them apart from the unfaithful. The Hebrew word for mark is the same as for the last letter of the alphabet, Tav, which in hand-written form is cross-shaped. It was used in the ancient world to brand animals. In Greek this is Tau, T, one of the possible shapes of Jesus' actual cross.

In the book of Revelation the servants of the Antichrist are to have their own peculiar mark (Rev. 14:9) to indicate their belonging to him.

So, as Jews wore their sign of belief in God, as the supporters of the Antichrist will wear his mark, it is fitting that the followers of Christ wear His mark, as the true remnant of the people of God. This mark is pre-eminently the baptismal conformation to Christ, but the Sign of the Cross is a fitting reminder since it expresses belief in the principle Christian truths, the Trinity, Christ and the Cross which won our salvation. As St. Paul says in 1 Cor. 1:23-24, "we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, [24] but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

As for the practice of making the Sign of the Cross when passing a Catholic Church, this is in lieu of a genuflection which one would make if one entered the church into the Real Presence. Since Protestant churches do not have the Real Presence it would be inappropriate to sign oneself when passing them.