

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

26th Apr Attendance 65 Collection £178.20

3rd May Attendance 69 Collection £377.00

Feast days

Wed – Our Lady of Fatima

Thurs – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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 10th May 2026

6th 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 Janet Marie Lambert, Kathleen Mary Cook, Tom Wareing & Doreen Ellen March whose anniversaries occur around this time

There will be No mass on Tuesday 12th 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

From the Archives – May Day

Last Monday the 4th of May, we celebrated ‘May Day’ which is officially known in the U.K. as the Early May Bank Holiday. May Day has been an official public holiday since 1978 but it has been celebrated since ancient times and was, and often still is to a certain extent, a time of fun and festivities in many locations across the nation. The Day would be marked with village folk cavorting round the maypole, the selection of the May Queen and the dancing figure of the Jack-in-the-Green at the head of the procession. Jack is thought to be a relic from the days when our ancient ancestors worshipped trees. Traces of Jack-in-the-Green can still be found on the signs of pubs across the country called the ‘Green Man’. These pagan roots did little to endear May Day festivities with either the Church or the State. In the sixteenth century riots followed when May Day celebrations were banned, on one occasion fourteen rioters were hanged, and [Henry VIII](#) is said to have pardoned a further four hundred who had been sentenced to

death. Dancing did not return to the village greens until the reign of Charles 2nd, ‘The Merry Monarch’, who helped ensure the support of his subjects with the erection of a massive 40-metre-high maypole in London’s Strand. This pole signalled the return of the fun times and remained standing for almost fifty years.

For Christians, the tradition of dedicating the month of May to Our Lady is centuries old, dating back at least seven hundred years. Pope Paul VI wrote an encyclical on the month of May, focusing on the Virgin Mary. He wrote that,

‘The piety of the faithful has long dedicated the month of May to the mother of God. We are delighted and consoled by this pious custom associated with the month of May, which pays honour to the Blessed Virgin and brings such rich benefits to Christian people. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise’.

St. John Henry Newman, in his book ‘Meditations and Devotions’, offers several reasons why May in particular is dedicated to Our Lady. He states:

‘The first reason is because it is the time when the earth bursts forth into its fresh foliage and its green grass after the stern frost and snow of winter and the raw atmosphere and the wild wind and rain of the early spring. It is because the blossoms are upon the trees and the flowers are in the gardens. It is because the days have got longer, and the sun rises early and sets late. For such gladness and joyousness of external Nature is a fit attendant on our devotion to her who is the Mystical Rose and the House of Gold.

Newman admits that sometimes May is a rainy, cool month. However, it always remains, *‘a month of promise and hope, the prelude to summer, the season of light. It is in this sense that it represents Mary. She reflects the light of Christ’.*

In our rural area of Lancashire, we are blessed with much beautiful countryside. During this special month of May the trees are fresh and green, the fields lush with new pasture and the woods are covered in the most glorious carpet of bluebells.

Mike Bryan

