

Longridge Foodbank Collection - We are continuing to collect for Longridge Foodbank.

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

Attendance and Collection

19th Jul Attendance 61 Collection £232.00

26th Jul Attendance 71 Collection £318.00

2nd Aug Attendance 52 Collection £232.20

Feast days

Mon – ST. LAWRENCE

Tues – St. Clare

Fri – ST. Maximilian Kolbe

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



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 9th August 2026

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 Mary Elizabeth Shenton, Jim Gornall, Nicholas Bajko, Morland Cowell, Winifred Sarah Moore, Elizabeth Louise Jones & Margaret Agnes Parker whose anniversaries occurs around this time

There will be NO masses on Tuesday until further notice.

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

Catholic Church, the Whore of Babylon

Judging by the criteria of biblical literalism it is certain that there is no mention of the Catholic Church in the book of Revelation as the Whore of Babylon. By contortions of interpretation some groups and individuals equate the Whore in Revelation 17:9 with the Catholic Church, since Rome is the famous city on seven hills, and the Church's principal See, that of the Pope, is Rome. This position is untenable, both factually and from the only words of Scripture which tell us of the actual doctrine of the Antichrist, those of the Apostle John in his letters.

There would seem to be two choices, either interpret Rev 17:9 absolutely literally, or, according to some interpretive key that is metaphorical, allegorical or otherwise non-literal. Lets look first at literal interpretation.

"The seven heads represent seven hills on which the woman sits."

First of all, no Pope has ever lived or had his "seat" (cathedra, See) on any of the seven hills of Rome. These hills are small hillocks (Capitoline, Palatine, Esquiline, Aventine and three lesser "bumps" in central Rome) where the religion and government of pagan Rome was situated. The Catholic Church's headquarters at the Lateran (the cathedral) and at the Vatican (where the Pope lives) does not coincide with them, though they are located within the City of Rome. At the time that John likely wrote Revelation, however, the Christians of Rome lived mostly across the river from the city, in Trastevere (trans Tiber), a district adjacent to the Vatican hill, and the Circus of Nero where St. Peter was crucified and buried. The Vatican is on top of that site, and is today its own city-state, distinct both from Rome and Italy.

So, of what was St. John speaking when he wrote Revelation on the island of Patmos around 96 A.D.? Obviously of the pagan imperial system situated on the Seven Hills, especially the Capitoline (the religious and political center) and the Palatine (the imperial palace). This pagan power persecuted the Church of Rome in Nero's day (64-

67 AD), and in the mid-nineties under the emperor Domitian. The people considered Domitian a re-incarnation of the evil Nero (the head that lives again). While the antichrist Nero persecuted only the Christians of Rome, Domitian extended that persecution throughout the empire. Both are thus types of the final persecutor, the Antichrist.

Why the cryptic name Babylon? First, the historical Babylon was the pagan power which persecuted the People of God, the Jews, between 610 and 538 BC, destroying the Temple and dispersing the people. The Romans inherited that mantle of infamy after General Pompey conquered Israel and sacked the Temple in 63 B.C., fully meriting it a hundred years later with its destruction in 70 A.D.. Thus, St. Peter, writing from Rome, refers to as "Babylon" (1 Pt. 5:13) - a name which any Jew or Christian would recognize. These facts alone make even more remarkable the peaceful conquest of Rome by the Church 200 years after St. John wrote this. "Christus vincit! Christus regnat! Christus imperat!" Christ conquers. Christ reigns. Christ commands.

The person of the Antichrist

How does this relate to the Antichrist? The future Antichrist's government will be a world-wide power which will persecute the Catholic Church (and orthodox Christians, in general) everywhere. He will follow in the footsteps of the archetype of persecutors of God's People, the Babylonians, and the Romans who imitated them by persecuting the early Church. The "Babylon" of John's day, Rome, stands for the kingdom of the future Antichrist, but is no more likely to be situated in Italy than Rome needed to be situated in Babylon to fulfill this archetype. John was informing his readers of this prophetic type by drawing their attention to the contemporary fulfillment they found in imperial Rome.