

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

Wed – St. John Eudes

Thurs - St. Bernard

Fri – St. PiusX

Sat – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 16th August 2026

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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 **Jim Gornall**

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

We remember James Wilfrid Bolton & Theresa Clare Southworth
whose anniversaries occurs around this time

Congratulations to **Sarah Forrest** and **Jack Rothwell** who getting married at Hill Chapel on Thursday 20th August @ 11am. We wish them every happiness.

There will be NO masses on Tuesday until further notice.

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

From the Archives

On Saturday the 15th of August we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorating the death of Our Lady and her bodily assumption into Heaven. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts as well as being a Holy Day of Obligation. However, it was only seventy-three years ago that Pope Pius XII made an infallible, ex-cathedra statement in the Apostolic Constitution 'Munificentissimus-deus', defining the dogma of the Assumption, he wrote:

"By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory,"

The decree was seen as formalising the long-held Christian teaching that Our lady was assumed body and soul into heaven. Indeed, the Feast of the Assumption is one of the oldest holy days in the Church, with accounts of celebrations going back to the sixth century. Christians in the East, both Catholic and Orthodox, refer to it as the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. The earliest printed reference to the belief that Mary's body was assumed into Heaven dates from the fourth century, in a document entitled "The Falling Asleep of the Holy Mother of God." The document is written in the voice of St John the Apostle, to whom Christ on the Cross had entrusted the care of His mother, and it recounts the death, laying in the tomb, and assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Tradition variously places Mary's death at Jerusalem or more likely, at Ephesus, where she had been living in a small dwelling owned by St John. Tradition has it that John took Mary away from Jerusalem for her own safety after Christ's passion and resurrection. I was fortunate to visit 'Mary's House' in Ephesus last year; whilst it is now a major pilgrimage site the humble dwelling has a strong spiritual effect on all who visit.

Many Christian countries, particularly around the southern Mediterranean, still celebrate the Feast Day in great style with elaborate festivals or 'Festas'. Perhaps the most elaborate and impressive Festas take place on the tiny island of Malta, where practically all the towns and villages hold Festas on 15 August. By far the largest celebration in honour of The Assumption takes place in Mosta, where the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady attracts huge crowds. In the Second World War the church was almost destroyed when, during an air raid, a 200kg bomb fell through the dome without exploding. All the three hundred people attending morning mass were left unharmed. Consequently, the Maltese see this as somewhat of a miracle and celebrate Our Lady's Feast Day in great style. The massive dome of the Basilica of Our lady of the Assumption, the third largest dome in the world, is covered in bright red material and festooned with lights. The front of the church is also bedecked with lights of various colours, flags and banners are flown in honour of Our Blessed Lady. Holy Mass is celebrated in the early evening and is followed by the statue of Our Lady being carried in procession through the Rotunda accompanied by bands, the clergy, village dignitaries and huge crowds of locals and visitors. The day ends with a spectacular firework display and a grand outdoor celebration of feasting and dancing.

Mike Bryan