

Feast Days this Week:

Tuesday: St John De Avila

Thursday: St Pancras

Friday: Our Lady of Fatima

Saturday: St Matthias

Cycle of Prayer During Easter:

We pray for new members of the Church; Human Work – St Joseph the Worker (1 May); Vocations (8 May); Survivors of sexual abuse (especially on 17 May); Right use of the media on Communications Day (29 May); the Church, especially at Pentecost (5 June).

Attendance and Collection:**24 April:** Attendance 51 | Collection £120.62

Parishioners Who Are Unwell: If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please email news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk or ring Father Sony on 01772 865229 for inclusion in the newsletter. We have an area in church where you can write a prayer intention on a card and hang it up if you prefer.

Days of Obligation: after a trial period when the Ascension, along with the Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord, were removed from the list of Holy Days of Obligations, the Bishops of England and Wales have received approval from the Holy See for the reinstatement of these two days of obligation. The new rules came into effect on the First Sunday of Advent 2021. This means that all Catholics in England and Wales are obliged to attend Mass on Thursday, or on the Vigil of the Solemnity on Wednesday evening. Masses in the Parish are at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25 May 2022 preceded by the holy hour of adoration from 6.30pm at St Thomas Apostle church (Vigil of Holy Day) and at 9.30am on Thursday 26 May 2022 at Hill Chapel.

The full list of Holy Days of Obligation are as follows:

- v The Epiphany of the Lord on 6 January
- v The Ascension of the Lord (the Thursday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter)
- v Saints Peter and Paul on 29 June,
- v The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15 August
- v All Saints on 1 November,
- v Christmas Day on 25 December

Newsletter Co-ordinator: we are **urgently** looking for someone to update the newsletter weekly from the start of June. Support will be given. Please speak to Mike Bryan or Mary Doran if you can help.



St Francis Hill Chapel

Parish Newsletter

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In case of emergency (and unable to contact Father Sony) please ring Father Dutton on 01772 782641 or Canon Doyle on 01772 782244

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8 May 2022 (Readings: Year C)

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 Mass is for the people of the parish.

Your prayers are requested for Tom Waring who is very ill.

Father Sony will be away from 9 May to 22 May in Rome. We welcome Monsignor Joseph Bradson on Sunday 15 May and Father Philip Newbold on Sunday 22 May. There will be NO Tuesday masses while Father is away.

Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Janet Marie Lambert and Kathleen Mary Cook. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

Safety Rules For Mass: Although safety rules have been restricted, we are only a small church and we do want everyone to be kept safe and Covid-free while attending Hill Chapel. Many thanks for your co-operation.

- * **Please sanitise your hands on entry.**
- * **Please wear a mask when entering and leaving church and when receiving Holy Communion. Masks can be removed while sitting in your bench.**

Parish Theatre Trip: to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat! A parish trip is being planned to see this fabulous show at Blackpool Opera House on Wednesday 27 July at 14.30. Numbers are needed to pre book so if any parishioners are interested please could you inform Bernadette Coulthurst on 07935021374. It will be a really fun trip to see a show with a great story, colourful characters and brilliant songs.

Confirmation and Communion: Bishop Paul will be coming to Hill Chapel to minister the Sacrament of Confirmation to pupils in Yrs 5, 6, 7, and 8 on Tuesday 12 July at 7.00 p.m. _Preparation for receiving the Sacrament will start in June. If you know of anyone who has not been confirmed and would like to receive the sacrament – please contact Mary Doran. Please note that the date for First Holy Communion this year is Sunday 19 June at 11.30am.

News from School

The next Family Mass will take place on **Sunday 22 May**.

If any parishioners would like to find out more about the religious life of the school, there is a *Living, Feeling, Dreaming* document pinned to the notice board at the back of church with full details of what's happening in school. Please do read it. And don't forget our lovely website too.

We would like to invite all parishioners to our Queen's Jubilee Party on **Friday 27 May**. Bring a picnic and we will provide the entertainment and welcome! School will be open for all parishioners to see the children's beautiful work and displays.

From the Archives

Following the Resurrection, the gospels tell us that Our Blessed Lord appeared to his faithful disciples in the region close to the Sea of Tiberias where much of his ministry had taken place. The Sea of Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee, or the Lake of Kinneret, is where Jesus recruited four of his apostles, Simon, the fisherman, his brother Andrew and the brothers James and John. One of Jesus' famous teaching episodes, the Sermon on the Mount, was given on a hill overlooking the lake. Many of his miracles also occurred here including, 'Walking on the Water', the 'Calming of the Sea' and the 'Miraculous Catch of Fish', which is

described in St John's gospel for the third Sunday after Easter. The feeding of the 'five thousand' took place close by in Tabgha, or Tiberias as it is also called, a small hamlet on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Tabgha stands at the foot of what has now become known as the Mount of the Beatitudes and is only two miles from Capernaum. The area has been frequented by fishermen for several centuries due to several warm springs that enter the lake here. The area is the home to the Catholic Church of the Multiplication which dates to 4AD.

The Sea of Galilee lies on the ancient Via Maris, the route which linked Egypt with the northern empires. The Greeks and Romans founded flourishing towns and settlements on the banks of the lake including, Hippos and Tiberias. The first-century historian Flavius Josephus was so impressed by the area that he wrote, 'One may call this place the ambition of Nature'; he also reported a thriving fishing industry at this time, with 230 boats regularly working in the lake. Archaeologists discovered one such boat, nicknamed the 'Jesus Boat', in 1986. It is an ancient fishing boat from the 1st century AD, and although there is no evidence directly linking the boat to Jesus and his disciples it nevertheless is an example of the kind of boat Jesus and his disciples would have used. The lake is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth and the second-lowest lake in the world after the Dead (Saltwater) Sea, at levels between 215 metres and 209 metres below sea level. It is approximately 53 km in circumference, about 21 km long, and 13 km wide. Its area is 166.7 km at its fullest, and its maximum depth is approximately 43 metres. The lake is fed partly by underground springs, but its main source is the river Jordan, which flows through it from north to south. In 2018, with extreme drought conditions continuing to intensify, the government of Israel approved a plan to pump desalinated water into the lake to stop the water level from plunging below a point where irreversible ecological damage to the lake might have taken place. However, since the beginning of the 2019 rainy season, the Sea of Galilee has risen considerably and, in April 2020, due to strong rains, it was just 16 cm below the upper red flood line. Sadly, this beautiful area is no stranger to conflict. In 1964, Syria attempted the construction of a Headwater Diversion Plan that would have blocked the flow of water into the Sea of Galilee. This project and Israel's attempt to block these efforts in 1965, were factors which played into regional tensions culminating in the 1967 Six Day War. During the war, Israel captured the Golan Heights, which contain some of the sources of water for the Sea of Galilee.

Despite the on-going tensions in the area, The Sea of Galilee, and its surrounding Holy Sites, are visited by thousands of Christian pilgrims each year. The town of Tiberias now has a population of over forty-four thousand and, as at the time of Christ, many are engaged in fishing, agriculture, and small artisan occupations producing woodwork, mat weaving, glass, and pottery. The region is said to enjoy the most favourable climate in Israel.

Mike Bryan