



THE PILGRIM

St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

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"A fraternal and hearty welcome to the new members of our Parish Community and all visiting sisters and brothers"



20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17 August 2025

READ First Reading: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, make haste to me!*

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:49-53

Jeremiah's word are perceived as a threat rather than a means to save the people, and so he is thrown into a muddy cistern to die. Hebrews encourages us to rid ourselves of everything that is contrary to the Gospel, and Jesus declares that he has come to set the world alight with his Word.

REFLECT: Sometimes the truth is unwelcome news. Good intentions are misconstrued as meddling, or worse, they are seen as having an ulterior motive. Likewise, the Good News of Jesus Christ can be an unwelcome call to a different way of life, which can lead to division in families and communities. However, the division occasioned by acceptance or rejection of the Good News is not to bring about a break-down in society. Rather, it is a catalyst to change, leading people to question the meaning of their existence, instead of remaining indifferent. And so, Christ and his Word are the fire that enlightens and purifies rather than destroys and breaks apart.

RESPOND: Be Christ's instrument of change in your community by your acts of faith, justice and love.

Pray: Meditate upon the situation of strife in your family life, your work, community, church. Ask for the openness to accept the truth and to stay true to Christ's transforming way of love despite opposition.

Source: Bible Diary 2025, Claretian Publications Foundation, Inc, QC, Phil.

PASTORAL TEAM

- Fr. Reu Jose C. Galoy, OFM, Parish Priest
- Fr. Yusuf Bagh, OFM, Guardian
- Fr. Desire Niyonkuru, OFM
- Fr. Mariusz Linik, OFM

- Ms. Kathleen Allen, Parish Secretary
- Mr. Derek Hoddy, Pastoral Assistant

MASS TIMES

- Sun - 6.00pm (Sat), 9:00 am, 10:15 am, 12:00 pm, 4:30 pm (Ukrainian Mass)
- Mon - Fri: 12:15 pm, Wed: 7:00 pm, Sat 10:00 am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sat: 10:30 am - 11:30 am
- Reconciliation
 - Sat: 10:30 am - 11:30 am, 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm & by Appointment
- Novena/Rosary
 - Tue: St. Anthony: 12:45 pm
 - Wed: Holy Rosary: 6:30 pm
 - Sat: Morning Prayer: 9:40 am

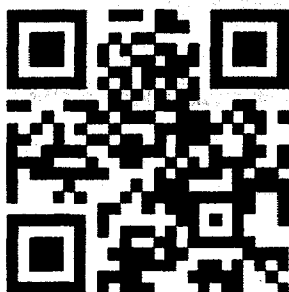
MASS INTENTIONS Sunday 17 August 2025 - Saturday 23 August 2025

Sun	17 AUG 9:00	TG - SAFE DELIVERY OF GRACE'S GRANDDAUGHTER.	Wed	20 AUG 12:15	GH - BENJAMIN
Sun	17 AUG 10:15	GH (M) STEVE CARMODIE	Wed	20 AUG 7:00	MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS
Sun	17 AUG 12:00	TG - FROM SHIRLEY FOR GRACES OBTAINED.	Thu	21 AUG 12:15	TG (F) - MARY-LOURDES MOMAH
Mon	18 AUG 12:15	FUNERAL MASS GWEN WALSH	Fri	22 AUG 12:15	RIP ANNIV (M) WILLIAM DUNDON
Tues	19 AUG 12:15	RIP ANNIV (M) MICHAEL O'NEILL	Sat	23 AUG 10:00	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			Sat	23 AUG 6:00	RIP (M) - THOMAS FITZGIBBON

TG - Thanksgiving, SI - Special Intention, BD - Birthday, WA - Wedding Anniversary, ST - Safe Travel, GH - Good Health, SR - Speedy Recovery, RIP - Death/Death Anniversary

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<https://tinyurl.com/vfk8vsc4> or
<https://stfrancisassisistratford.com/newsletters>



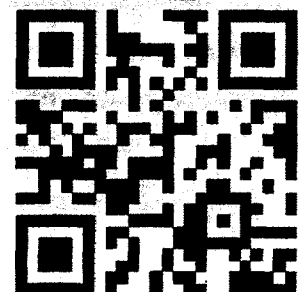
Stay up-to-date with the latest parish events and announcements - join our new WhatsApp Channel! Scan the QR code below or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/4weu2mh6> or
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbA3Xba6xCSIP3JiaOI>



Support our parish and its mission. Donate Now by scanning the QR code below or visiting the Diocese link (please remember to select our Stratford parish):

<https://tinyurl.com/36m53d54> or
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations>



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APPLICATIONS FOR 2025/2026

The Applications Forms for next year's First Communion intake will be available after Mass today, at the back of the Church, and from the Parish Office. Please ensure you return the applications **BEFORE THE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2025** to the Parish Office with a photocopy of the child's Baptism Certificate, in an envelope marked "HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION – 2025/2026". Thank you.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria

The Repository

The Repository be open again after all Sunday Masses on 17TH AUGUST 2025. *Candles, Mass Cards, Missals, Rosary Beads etc., can also be obtained from the Parish Office between 9:30pm & 3pm - Monday to Friday. Cash only please.*

Save the date for our Gala Autumn Festival on Saturday evening 18 October

in our Church Hall. This is an excellent way to get to know your fellow parishioners, enjoy some dancing and sample a feast of national dishes. All for £15 (Children 7-11, £5) Price includes all food, soft drinks and table snacks. The proceeds raised will be donated to cover the cost of replacing the lights in the Car Park, which are likely to cost us circa £2000. Tickets are on sale at the back of the church after all Masses or you can call Sarah on 07778 868827 or Marian on 07715 420629 to secure your ticket.

The Bubbly Club & Knights of St Columba, Christmas Card Competition is now open. There will be 3 categories:

Group A Age 5 to 11

Group B Age 12-17

Group C Age 18 and above.

Design and colour the front of a Christmas card with a 'Keeping Christ in Christmas' theme Size - half an A4 page, on the back write your name, age group and a contact phone number.

Please hand your entry to one of the ushers at the back of the Church or into the Parish Office. There will be a £30 prize for each category. Entries to be received by 19 October.

CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is looking for people to join our small team of volunteers who visit local schools to inspire children and young people and raise their awareness on issues of global poverty and Catholic social teaching. CAFOD provides full- training and support and welcomes applications from people with a range of experience. For more information contact Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493 162. See the poster at the back of the Church.

S.V.P GROUP - DAY OF RECOLLECTION - SAT. 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025.

There will be a day of recollection for the SVP Group in the Large Hall, and anyone who is interested in becoming involved in the work of the SVP. The event will be hosted by Fr George Smulski - time to be confirmed.