



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"

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

24 August 2025

READ First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Responsorial Psalm: *Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.*

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:22-30

Isaiah prophesies the gathering of the nations in praise of the Lord. The Letter to the Hebrews teaches us the importance of correction in our Christian life and Jesus preaches that those of the nations who will gather in heaven will enter by the narrow door.

REFLECT: When I was a toddler, one of my favorite toys was a globe into which you had to fit different shapes. No matter how hard you tried, the round shape wouldn't go into a square hole and the yellow triangle wouldn't go into the oval space. We might think of today's Gospel in a similar fashion, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door." Jesus wants us to take on the right shape for heaven, and that shape is Christ's. Our lives are to be configured to that of Christ so that we can grow more like Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. To accept that you were wrong takes the strength of humility.

RESPOND: Resolve to take on a simple penance as an expression of your self-offering to Christ.

Pray: *Let us pray for the willingness to be refashioned by Christ and the patience needed to undergo the process*

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 24 August 2025 - Saturday 30 August 2025

Sun	24 AUG 9:00	TG - St Jude, St Anthony & St Thaddeus AND TG - (F) CHRISTINE BARTOLOME	Wed	27 AUG 12:15	RIP ANNIV (M) MICHAEL WEEKES
Sun	24 AUG 10:15	RIP - (M) CARL NAGAITIS	Wed	27 AUG 7:00	FMU
Sun	24 AUG 12:00	BD - (M) MICHAEL VAUGHN	Thu	28 AUG 12:15	SI (F) GLORIA LATTORE
Mon	25 AUG 12:15	RIP ANNIV (M) LEOTIMO PEREZ	Fri	29 AUG 12:15	POPE LEO
Tues	26 AUG 12:15	RIP ANNIV (M) JONATHAN	Sat	30 AUG 10:00	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			Sat	30 AUG 6:00	RIP (M&F) PETER & UNA SORHAINDO

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://stfrancisassistratford.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/0029VbA3Xba6xCSIP3JJia0I>



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.

MONDAY 25TH AUGUST 2025 IS A BANK HOLIDAY.
MASS WILL BE AT THE USUAL TIME OF 12:15, BUT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

Save the date for our Gala Autumn Festival on Saturday evening 28 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.

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.

Ingatestone Hall Tea & Tour

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is excited to invite you to a special day exploring the beautiful Ingatestone Hall! Join us for a private guided tour led by Lord Petre or his son, giving you a rare glimpse into this stunning 16th-century Grade I listed manor house. The tour lasts about 1½ hours, and afterwards, you'll be treated to tea and cake in the parlour — a lovely way to relax and chat!

Date: Thursday, 11th September

Times: 10.30 am and 12.30 pm (two tour options)

Tickets: £25 per person — you can reserve yours here:

<https://eu.jotform.com/form/251772844632361>

Note: Please be aware that access is limited due to the historic nature of the building, which may not be suitable for individuals with mobility challenges

If you'd like more info, please get in touch with Julie:

Email: jabbott@bccs.org.uk / 07912277413.

Divine Mercy Prayer and Healing Mass

Join the Community and parishioners of St Josephs Church in prayer on Friday, 5th September 2025 for a special day of devotion to Divine Mercy. The address is: **St Josephs Catholic Church, 68 Grange Park Road, Leyton, E10 5ES.** Prayers will begin with the Divine Mercy Prayer in the morning at 9:30am, followed by a Divine Mercy Healing Mass at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to come and experience this time of grace and spiritual renewal.

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, 10:30am to 4pm. Mass and talk led by Fr George Smulski, OFM. If you are interested in the social work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP), then you are warmly invited. Bring a picnic lunch.