



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”

FEAST OF THE EXULTATION OF THE CROSS

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 September 2025

READ First Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

Responsorial Psalm: *Never forget the deeds of the Lord!*

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Reading: John 3:13-17

The Israelites lose faith in God and bitten by fiery serpents. The people's gaze towards the bronze serpent expresses renewed trust in God. God sent his Son to save us. We look to the cross of Christ with hope and trust in his victory.

REFLECT: The cross was an instrument of agonizing death, so why do we give it exalted status? We do so because of the One who was nailed to it. Only Jesus, God made man, could break the bonds of sin and death and he did so by dying on the cross and rising again. Jesus changed the cross from being an object of shame into a means of victory. By faith we realize that the cross of Christ is about love, hope and salvation. The cross becomes the greatest expression of God's infinite love for us and in turn, by our fidelity to him in our sufferings, so as to share in his glory.

RESPOND: Help shoulder the burden of Christ's cross in another person's life.

Pray: Meditate with a crucifix today. Look upon the cross and adore Christ your Saviour.

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 14 September 2025 – Saturday 20 September 2025

Sun	14 SEPT 9:00	SR (M) NOEL	Wed	17 SEPT 12:15	RIP (M) JOHN MCENTEGGART
Sun	14 SEPT 10:15	RIP (F) KATHLEEN ALLEN (PARISHIONERS SISTER-IN-LAW IN WAKEFIELD) NOT the Parish Secretary	Wed	17 SEPT 7:00	SI (M) COTTIE O'DONNELL
Sun	14 SEPT 12:00	RIP ANNIV (M) CHARLES BRADLEY	Thu	18 SEPT 12:15	BD/RIP (M) JOSEPH MOMAH
Mon	15 SEPT 12:15	GH (M) PADDY NICHOLAS and BD (M) JHERYL CABEY	Fri	19 SEPT 12:15	RIP/ANNIV (M) MICHAEL KAVANAGH
Tues	16 SEPT 12:15	GH (M) FR. EUGENE HASSAN	Sat	20 SEPT 10:00	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			Sat	20 SEPT 6:00	RIP ANNIV. (M) ROGELI CANTUBA

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

Go green! Access our Digital Newsletter online for a sustainable and eco-friendly way to stay informed. Scan the QR code below or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/vfk8vsc4> or
<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/4weu2nh6> 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>



THE REPOSITORY

The Repository will be open again after all Masses TODAY - **Sunday 14th September 2025**. Church Art Calendars & Catholic Diaries for next year, together with boxed Christmas Cards - these will be available, along with the usual Rosary Beads Candles, etc.

All Repository goods can be purchased from the Parish Office – Mon – Fri - 9:30am to 3pm.

As always **CASH ONLY PLEASE**. Thank you.

FORMATION MINISTRY PRESENTS Lay the Foundations of your Catholic Marriage before meeting your spouse.

Large Hall Thursday 18th September from 6:30pm. Speakers: Mauro & Janet Iannicelli.

6:30 Rosary/Meditation

7:00 TALK

8:00 Socials (Wine & Cheese)

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL SCHEDULE OF MASSES:

OCT. 04, 2025 - FEASTDAY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (Saturday) Holy Mass - 10:00AM

NOV 02, 2025 - ALL SAINTS
(Sunday) – **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** Holy Mass
09:00AM, 10:15AM 12:00PM and 06:00PM

NOV 03, 2025 COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE
(Monday) - **FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)** - Holy Mass - 12:15PM and 07:00pm

St Bonaventure's School Open Evening



St Bonaventure's invite you to their Year 6 Open Events. Open Evening – Thursday 25th September at 6pm.
Open Morning – Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th September and Wednesday 1st October at 9:30am – appointment only.

REGISTRATION WITH THE PARISH.

We would like all our Parishioners to be registered with us – **NOT ONLY THE NEW MEMBERS**. Many of you are registered on our PPS, but we would like **ALL Parishioners** to register. Registrations Forms may be obtained at the Back of the Church, or, from the Parish Office. This will make it easier to request letters/documents from the Parish,

also if you have changed address etc.

Thank you.

**ACCESS TO GROVE CRESCENT
ROAD BY CAR – ONE WAY SYSTEM.**

A number of people have received Penalty Notices because of access to Grove Crescent Road. Please be advised, ***you cannot turn LEFT into Grove Crescent Road when approaching from Stratford Bus Station.*** You MUST access from the right hand side. If you are approaching from Stratford Station, you have to go into Morrison's, turn around, then turn right into The Grove, then right again into Grove Crescent Road.