



THE PILGRIM

St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church E15 1BJ.



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

2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT

07 December 2025

“Change your ways; the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

READ First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: *In his days shall flourish, and great peace forever.*

Second Reading: Roman 15:4-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah, who will not judge by appearances. Paul prays that the church in Rome, will be united in praise of God, welcoming one another. John the Baptist preaches repentance and conversion of heart.

REFLECT: The Pharisees hoped that externals and their association with the ancestors would be enough to secure them a place in heaven. Their idea was that if they were children of Abraham then they would be as holy as him. But John said that this didn't necessarily follow. It would be a bit like saying, “I met the Pope once,” to share his renown, to make people respect us or like us more. But who we know or who we're related to makes no difference to who we are, or to the morality of our lives. John was saying that Pharisees and Sadducees couldn't ride on the back of the reputation of others. They had to show God they wanted to change their lives for the better. They had to show by good works that they really wanted to be part of the Kingdom.

RESPOND: Show your belonging to Christ by bearing “good fruit,” that is, deeds of mercy to others.

Pray: *Pray for the conversion of heart and express your fervent desire to be part of God's Kingdom.*

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

- 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)
- 2nd Sunday of the month Youth Mass 10:15am.
- 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 7 Dec 2025 – Saturday 13 December 2025

Sun	7 DEC 9:00	RIP ANNIV (M) - BILLY HAYES	Wed	10 DEC 12:15	TG - FROM THE ANIBUEZE FAMILY
Sun	7 DEC 10:15	RIP (M) - MARTIN CAFFERY	Wed	10 DEC 7:00PM	RIP (F) - ELIZABETH ONG
Sun	7 DEC 12 Noon	SI/CHRISTMAS BLESSING - THE CARRIG FAMILY	Thu	11 DEC 12:15	RIP (F) - AGATHA CHIA
Mon	8 DEC 12:15	RIP (M) - MALACHY CARMICHAEL	Fri	12 DEC 12:15	RIP - (M & F) NGHONG SWEE & YIP HONG CHUI
Tues	9 DEC 12:15	RIP (M) - JOE O'MAHONEY	Sat	13 DEC 10:00	RIP (M) ANDREW NG
			Sat	13 DEC 6:00	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

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>



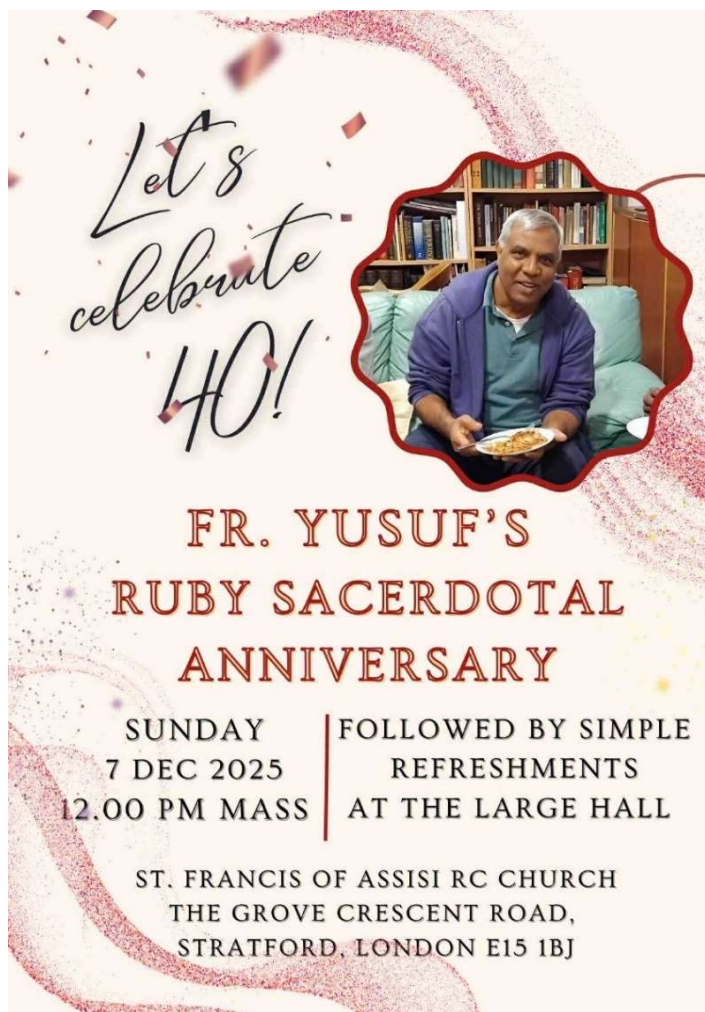
Stay up-to-date with the latest parish events and announcements - join our new WhatsApp Channel! Scan the QR code below or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/4weu2mh6> or
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbA3Xba6xCSIP3Jia0I>



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





THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

is on 8th December 2025 – there will be a Mass at 7pm in the evening, as well as the usual 12:15pm.

CONFIRMATION 2026

Confirmation Candidates Application Forms for 2026 will be available at the back of the Church, and from the Parish Office, from 7th December 2025. Please return the completed forms by Friday 9th January 2026. Thank you.

There will be a Divine Mercy Retreat

led by the Marian Fathers at St Marys Mother of God Church Hornchurch. The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection on Saturday 20 December from 1 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

Night Shelter – We again have the pleasure of hosting the NewWay Night Shelter on Wednesday nights from 31st December to 4th March (10 weeks). **Volunteer forms are available at the back of the church.** Some of our regular volunteers have moved on and are not able to help this year so we have need new people. You can volunteer for any of the shifts but in particular we need volunteers who can sleepover on one or more nights or manage a bag of washing, usually two domestic machine loads. (You don't have to volunteer to do every week). It is a very good way to engage with parish activities and to get to know people.

ADVENT AND

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

12 DEC @ 6pm - Christmas Carol Service by St Francis School.

Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday 13 December – 10:30 – 11:30am

05:00– 05:45pm

Saturday 20 December – 10:30 – 11:30am

05:00 – 05:45pm

SIMBANG GABI (Filipino) MASS

Sunday 21 December 2025 – 06:00pm

Fraternal Agape Follows at the Parish Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

24th of December (WEDNESDAY)

06:00pm - 1st Christmas Mass

08:00pm - Christmas Carols

09:00pm - Christmas Eve Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

6am-8am – Ukrainian

09:00am / 10:15am / 12:00nn

St. Stephen's Day – Altar Servers

26 December 2025 (Friday)

Mass 12:15PM

St. John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast

27 December 2025 (Saturday)

Mass 10:00AM

HOLY FAMILY

27 December 2025 @ 06:00PM (Saturday)

28 December 2025 (Sunday)

Mass @ 09:00AM / 10:15AM / 12:00NN