

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"

4th SUNDAY of ADVENT

21 December 2025

"To be open to what God would have us do"

READ First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm: *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

Isaiah prophesies that Emmanuel will be born of a virgin. Saint Paul write to the Christians in Rome saying that they are redeemed through the Son of God, who was born in the flesh a descendant of David, and because of him they are called to holiness. Following a dream Joseph, obeys God's command through the angel and takes Mary home as his wife.

REFLECT: The image of the sleeping Joseph has become a popular portrayal of the husband of Mary, and a devotion that many have found most helpful in times of dilemma. It is said that if you have a problem you should sleep on it. Often a solution will present itself to us while we dream, but we also reach decisions with God's help. So it is with Saint Joseph, who learns that Mary's child has been conceived by the Holy Spirit and that he will "save his people from their sins." Joseph wants to do the right thing, but now with these new insights, he radically changes his decision about what that right thing is. Joseph teaches us to reflect deeply on major decisions, and to be open to what God would have us do.

RESPOND: Put the intention under the statute of the sleeping Joseph.

Pray: Ask the intercession of Saint Joseph in aa difficult decision.

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 21 Dec 2025 – Saturday 27 December 2025

Sun	21 DEC 9:00	SI (F) MRS BON	Wed	24 DEC 7pm	SI/XMAS BLESSING FRANK & MARY CONVILLE & FAMILY
Sun	21 DEC 10:15	SI SUE & BILL CONLON & FAMILY	Thu	25 DEC 9:00	SI/XMAS BLESSING JOHN & ELAINE BATT & FAMILY
Sun	21 DEC 12 Noon	SI - MARY JEEWOARAIN	Thu	25 DEC 10:1	SI/XMAS BLESSING DES & ANNETTE HODDY & FAMILY
Mon	22 DEC 12:15	SI/XMAS BLESSING SUSAN MAHON	Thu		SI/XMAS BLESSING JOHNNY & GENE BRADLEY & FAMILY
Tues	23 DEC 12:15	SI/XMAS BLESSING THE FERNANDES FAMILY	Fri	26 DEC 12:15	SI/XMAS BLESSING TIM & MARTHA BRADLEY & FAMILY
Wed	24 DEC 12:15	SI (M) NOEL C. ANIBUEZE	Sat	27 DEC 10:00	SI/XMAS BLESSING LILY CAVANAH & FAMILY
			Sat	27 DEC 6PM	SI/XMAS BLESSING MICHAEL VAUGHN

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

God With Us Draws Near

The 4th Sunday of Advent Year A brings us very close to Christmas. The readings help us focus on who Jesus is and why He came. We hear the name Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." This is the message we hold onto as we get ready to celebrate His birth. Each reading gives us something to think about. Isaiah speaks of a sign—a child born to a virgin. Paul reminds the early Christians that Jesus was promised long ago. The psalm talks about who can come into God's presence. And in the Gospel, Joseph listens to God and chooses to stay with Mary

Join our Pilgrimage to Lourdes -

travelling overnight by luxury coach from 9 to 14 February 2026. It is always a beautiful and deeply spiritual experience soaking in the Spirit of Jesus as we travel to honour Our Blessed Mother. Leaving Slough and Ealing Broadway on 9 Feb 2026 and departing Lourdes on 13 February for a visit to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Rue de Bac, Paris on 14 February morning and arriving in London later on 14 February 2026. Full board, exciting festival devotional program, experience the Blessed Sacrament Procession of the Sick, the Candlelight Marian Rosary Procession and the International Mass on the Feast Day followed by Stations, Confessions and Adoration with Hour of Mercy. Travel, full board and program cost £590. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more info.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO THE FRIARS

Envelopes will be available at the back of the Church for the Christmas Offering.

The Friars would like to thank our Volunteers, Parishioners and everyone who keeps our Church running smoothly, and we wish everyone a Happy Christmas & a Peaceful New Year.

SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL.

St Valentine's Night Dance

Sat. 14 February 2026 7.30 pm, Large Hall - Hold the date. Tickets on sale soon.

Please be advised, there will be NO ACCESS to the Friary from the Car Park Wooden Gate, with immediate effect, due to certain security issues recently. Should you wish to access the Friary, please go to the Office at 160 The Grove. Thank you for your co-operation.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

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 / 12:00noon

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

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr, Feast

29th of December 2025 (Monday)

Mass @ 12:15PM & 06:30

Weekday Masses @ 12:15pm

Dec. 26th - 30th

MARY MOTHER of GOD

World Day of Peace New Year's Day

01 January 2026 (Thursday)

Mass @ 10:00am and 12:15pm

4:30pm – Ukrainian Mass

Prayers Around the Crib at 1:30pm on 6th January, followed by a get-together in the Hall with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

THE EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

6th January 2026 – 6am Ukrainian

Mass 12:15PM and 06:30PM