



THE PILGRIM

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

Official Bulletin published by the Parish Office, 160 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1NS

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



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

28th December 2025

"Families should be communities of faith and love."

READ First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm: *Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.*

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 (or 3:12-17)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-15

Sirach counsels loving respect in a family. Saint Paul encourages us to act with compassion and forgiveness. Saint Joseph is directed by the angel to lead his family to safety.

REFLECT: When we look at a beautiful manger scene, there's little to remind us of the danger that the Holy Family had face. Herod wants to kill the child Jesus, and so they must escape to Egypt. This means that they were refugees, like so many people around the world today, with no home and few possessions. The danger they faced is as real for so many today, as families flee from violence, persecution and death. But in all the dangers, the Gospel teaches us that the Father's plan is still in place. The angel said to Joseph, "Get up"! It's a phrase found throughout the Bible to indicate a vocation. Our families should be communities of faith and love where we can hear God's call. We are all called to seek to do God's will, as loving parents who care for their children, or as children who are keen to learn, to grow and to discover what God is calling them to be.

RESPOND: Celebrate this feast with a family gathering.

Pray: *Pray for your family, and pray for all families who are displaced or in danger.*

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)
- 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 28 December 2025 – Saturday 3 January 2026

Sun	28 DEC 9:00	TG - SERA ROSE MASCARENNAS	Wed	31 DEC 12:15	RIP (F) VERONICA CHISHAMBWA
Sun	28 DEC 10:15	SI/XMAS BLESSING THE ROONEY FAMILY	Wed	31 DEC 7:00PM	RIP (F) RITA McKENNA
Sun	28 DEC 12:00	SI/XMAS BLESSING THE MURPHY FAMILY	Thu	1 JAN 12:15	RIP (F) LUCIANA LEONARDI
Mon	29 DEC 12:15	SI/XMAS BLESSING THE McGOVERN FAMILY	Fri	2 JAN 12:15	SI (M) BRUNO RINALDI
Tues	30 DEC 12:15	SI/XMAS BLESSING THE HANLEY FAMILY	Sat	3 JAN 10:00	SI KATHLEEN
			Sat	3 JAN 6:00	RIP ANNIV (M) BRIAN HANLEY

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/vtk8yvc4> 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/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>



Please be advised, there will be **NO ACCESS** to the Friary from the Car Park via the Wooden Gate, with immediate effect, due to 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.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED FROM
3PM 24 DECEMBER 2025 UNTIL
9:30AM 5 JANUARY 2026.**

St Valentine's Night Dance

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

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.

Pilgrimage to Rome – Supporting Our Young People. St Bonaventure's are currently raising funds to support our students as they prepare for a pilgrimage to Rome. This journey is much more than a trip abroad; it is a sacred opportunity for our young people to grow in faith, community, and love of Christ. By visiting the holy sites where the Church first took root and walking in the footsteps of the saints, students will be encouraged to deepen their relationship with God and with one another. We kindly ask for your prayers as our students prepare for this pilgrimage, and for any financial support you are able to offer. Your generosity will help ensure that every student, regardless of circumstance, has the opportunity to experience this life-changing journey of faith. A poster with further information and a QR code for donations will be available at the back of the church.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

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 (not the 4th as originally stated),
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**

THE EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD
6th January 2026 – 6am Ukrainian
Mass 12:15PM and 06:30PM