



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"



2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

04 January 2026

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12

Responsorial Psalm: The Word become flesh and dwelt among us.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Read: Sirach reminds us that "The wisdom of God has dwelt in the chosen people. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians puts in the point that God predestined us to become adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus." Our Gospel today tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us – "Christ, the Word, is the foundation of reality."

Reflect: What we celebrate is no less than God's entry into the world to share fully in our human nature. "The Word made flesh and dwelt among us." At the heart of our faith is our belief in the love of God. Christ birth is proof of that. So, it's that love that should be at the heart of our Christmas celebrations. God's love for us prompts our love for him and our love for others. It's God's love that should fuel our family gatherings and celebrations. It's God's love that urges us to spare a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves, and to care for and pray for those who are struggling at this time. Christ, the Son of God was born in a messy stable. This tells us that God is near at every moment of life, including the toughest of times. Christ enters our lives to offer hope, love and salvation – and that is the Good News we celebrate. Jesus has come to make his home in our hearts. So, let's thank him; let's praise him. Come let us adore him!

Respond: Do something good to any less fortunate in your family or friends.

Pray: Ask the Lord to transform your stone heart into a loving and compassionate heart.

Source: Bible Diary 2025, Claretian Publications Foundation, Inc, QC, Ph

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: 6:30 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: 6:00 pm**
- Sat: Morning Prayer: 9:40 am

MASS INTENTIONS Sunday 4 January 2026 – Saturday 10 January 2026

Sun 4 JAN 9:00	SI/XMAS BLESSING - THERESA KINIANE & FAMILY	Wed 7 JAN 12:15	TG ST JUDE TADDEUS & ST ANTHONY
Sun 4 JAN 10:15	RIP (F) VERONICA CHISAMBWA	Wed 7 JAN 7:00PM	RIP (M) CHARLES CHISHAMBWA
Sun 4 JAN 12:00	SI/XMAS BLESSING ALICE & BERNARD MARKEY	Thu 8 JAN 12:15	RIP (M) RICHARD MPOFU
Mon 5 JAN 12:15	RIP LUCIANO IANNICELLI	Fri 9 JAN 12:15	SI/XMAS BLESSING FRANCES DUGGAN & FAMILY
Tues 6 JAN 12:15	SI (M) BRUNO RINALDI	Sat 10 JAN 10:00	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
		Sat 10 JAN 6:00	SI - THE NAGAITIS FAMILY

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://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/4wen2mh6> or
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbA3Xba6xCSP2JjiaOI>

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>



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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.

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.



**6th January 2026 –
6am Ukrainian Mass
12:15PM and 06:30PM**

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

CHANGE TO MASS TIMES
Evening Masses that currently start at 7pm, will now start at 6:30pm, therefore, the Rosary on Wednesday will start at 6pm followed by Mass at 6:30pm. and Evening Masses for Holy Days of Obligation will be at 6:30pm not 7pm.
Thank you.

