

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"



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

11 January 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Responsorial Psalm: **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

REFLECTION

Even before John meets Jesus, he has been proclaiming a figure far superior to him, whose sandal straps he is unworthy to untie. Thus, he cannot image this exalted Judge of the end-time, the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit, lining up with the crowds for his water baptism of repentance. But this *solidarity with sinners*, though shocking to John, is the way to fulfill all *righteousness*. The biblical sense of "righteousness" or "justice" is a far cry from how we understand and experience those terms in the 21st century. In this Gospel passage, all righteousness refers to everything that has been prophesied about God's saving acts, or how God makes right the relationship between the divine and the human. In his Beloved Son Jesus, God takes the definitive step to reach out to us by descending progressively in our world, into our flesh, into our woundedness, and into the abyss of our sinfulness to draw us out of it and restore us to our true identity.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, through your baptism, you entered into profound solidarity with us, revealing the mercy of God in our midst. Thank you for unveiling the compassionate heart of the Father. Amen

2026 Gospel Power with reflection by Sr. Bernardita Dianzon, fsp, © 2025 Daughters of St. Paul

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 11 January 2026 – Saturday 17 January 2026

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----|---------------|--|
| Sun | 11 JAN 9:00 | RIP ANNIV (F) ANGELA GERAGHTY | Wed | 14 JAN 12:15 | SI (F) EMILIA MANGONE |
| Sun | 11 JAN 10:15 | SI - SABADO AND ADORACION | Wed | 14 JAN 7:00PM | BISHOP ALAN |
| Sun | 11 JAN 12:00 | RIP - (M) MICHAEL CORRY | Thu | 15 JAN 12:15 | RIP (M) MICHAEL CORRY |
| Mon | 12 JAN 12:15 | RIP (M) LUCIANO IANNICELLI | Fri | 16 JAN 12:15 | BD (M) - GARFIELD BRAMBLE & RIP (F) - JULIANA REIGN NARCISO |
| Tues | 13 JAN 12:15 | RIP (F) BELINDA FRIERI | Sat | 17 JAN 10:00 | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| | | | Sat | 17 JAN 6:00PM | RIP (F) - AUDREY YATES |

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://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/4weu2mhl6> or
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbA3Xba6xCSIP3JJia01>



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.diocesecolbrentwood.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.

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 and Evening Masses for Holy Days of Obligation will be at 6:30pm not 7pm UNTIL 4TH MAY, whereby the Masses go back to 7pm and the Rosary will go back to 6:30pm. Thank you.

The 6:30pm Epiphany of the Lord Mass on 6th January 2026.

Due to an oversight, the Mass allocated for Angelo Ampolo was omitted from the Newsletter – apologies from the Parish Office.

St Valentine's Night Dance

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

Join the Pilgrimage to Lourdes –

with the organizers of “A Day with Mary” - 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.

CARITAS BRENTWOOD

“RESPONDING TO THE HOMELESS”

On Saturday 24th January 2026, from 10am to 12:30pm in The Large Hall, speakers from “Rainham Foodbank”, “Your Place Anchor House”, and the “Basildon Emergency Night Shelter” will be attending. Refreshments provided. To register, please go to:

<https://CARITAS-HCL-25.eventrite.co.uk>

OR contact Des Hoddy 07599 083391, OR, The Parish Office.

2026 ADDITIONAL SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**Every Wednesday @ 06:00PM
Rosary and
06:30PM Holy Mass**

02 FEB 2026 THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
(Monday) - *Feast* Holy Mass - 12:15PM and 06:30PM

17 MAR 2026 SAINT PATRICK, Bishop, Missionary
(Tuesday) - Holy Mass - 12:15PM and 06:30PM

**19 MAR 2026 SAINT JOSEPH, Husband of the
BVM** (Thursday -) *Solemnity* Holy Mass - 12:15 & 06:30PM

