



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"

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

18 January 2026

READ First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Responsorial Psalm: Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

God's mercy and forgiveness are needed.

God called the prophet to be his servant, to gather the lost children of God, and to be a light to the nations. In the second reading, Paul presents himself as the apostle called by God to minister to God's people. And John the Baptist declared in the gospel that Jesus is the ultimate servant of God, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world."

REFLECT: In saving His people, God called ministers to share in this work. In the old days, he had Israel's leaders and prophets. Until he finally sent his Son Jesus to become one like us and establish God's reign here on earth. Jesus offered himself as the sacrificial lamb for our salvation. But the mission continues until he comes again. It is now in our hands to carry on the mission for which we have been baptised. We are living in a world where the darkness of hatred, war, greed, and indifference is growing. More and more, God's mercy and forgiveness are needed. Each of us is called to be an instrument for God's goodness and love to prevail.

RESPOND: Lend a hand, open your heart, and share your gift with someone in need today.

Prayer: Lord, send me your Spirit and empower me to share your light with our darkened world.

Source: Bible Diary 2026, 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)
- Youth Mass – 1st Sunday of the Month at 10:15am.
- 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 18 January 2026 – Saturday 24 January 2026

Sun	18 JAN 9:00	SI - THE ROSARIO FAMILY & OSVALDA BARBOS	Wed	21 JAN 12:15	RIP ANNIV (M) THOMAS McENTEGGART.
Sun	18 JAN 10:15	SI - WAGNER VAZ, IRLEY BURRETO, DWALYN TABORDA & ITO TABORDA		21 JAN 6:30PM	MINISTER GENERAL - MASSIMO FUSARELLI, OFM
Sun	18 JAN 12:00	RIP (M) VINCENT DUGGAN & WA/TG - GEORGE & LINDA BARTOLOME		22 JAN 12:15	RIP ANNIV (M) MEDARDAS NAGAITIS
Mon	19 JAN 12:15	SI - SOULS IN PURGATORY	Fri	23 JAN 12:15	RIP (M) VINCENT DUGGAN
Tues	20 JAN 12:15	SI (M) HAYDN SMITH & RIP (F) MARIA MIKUSKIEWICZ	Sat	24 JAN 10:00	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			Sat	24 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/vfk8ysc4> 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/4weu2mh6> or
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbA3Xba6xCSP3JhaOI>



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>



FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. During this time of grace, which will extend until January 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity to obtain a **plenary indulgence**. This Franciscan Jubilee

Year, considered a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal, was inaugurated on Jan. 10 with a **decree** issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See.

Until Jan. 10 of next year, the faithful can obtain this grace under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope — by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world. Furthermore, the elderly, the sick, and those who, for serious reasons, cannot leave their homes can obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining in the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/269025/Leo-XIV-proclaims-Franciscan-jubilee-year-and-grants-plenary-indulgence>

Our parish joyfully announces the launch of our **Franciscan Jubilee Program on Sunday, 2nd February 2026**, during the **6:30 PM Mass**, as we celebrate the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**. All parishioners and friends are warmly invited to witness the opening of this **Special Year of St Francis** in our very own church—a historic, grace-filled journey for our parish community.

In preparation for this significant occasion and the yearlong celebrations that will follow, there will be **some physical movements and rearrangements within the Church** to better support the Jubilee program. We kindly ask for your understanding, cooperation, and prayers as these preparations are made.

May this Jubilee Year deepen our faith and draw us closer to the spirit of St Francis.



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.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI YOUTH CLUB:

Every 1st Sunday in the month, there is a Youth Mass at the 10.15am Mass, followed by Youth Club activities in the hall. The club is open to Juniors from age 7 to 11; and Senior Youth Group for students year 7 upward. Parents are welcome to sit in for junior activities.

CLOSURE OF GROVE CRESCENT ROAD.

The builders across the road from the Church are dismantling another Large Crane on the following dates, therefore, Grove Crescent Road will be closed as detailed below:-

Operation dates: **from 0400hrs on Saturday 14th February to 2100hrs on Sunday 15th February 2026.** 1st Back up dates; from 0400hrs on Saturday 28th February to 2100hrs on Sunday 01st March 2026 2nd Back up dates; from 0400hrs on Saturday 07th March to 2100hrs on Sunday 08th March 2026. We have requested that they are mindful of our Mass Times and activities in the Halls on the weekends they are closing the road.

Hatha Yoga Class

in the Small Hall. Mondays 6pm to 7.30pm. Mixed ability.

All welcome. Telephone Hriet on 07803 121104 for more information.

Zumba & Tai Chi Class

commencing Friday 6th February 2026, from 10am to 11am every Friday in the Large Hall. Everyone welcome!

St Valentine's Night Dance

Sat. 14 February 2026 7.30 pm, Large Hall

Tickets on sale after Mass.