



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"

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25 January 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Responsorial Psalm: **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

REFLECT

A crisis can be an important turning point, a signal to begin something new, an open door that invites entry. The arrest of John the Baptist certainly triggered a crisis situation not only for John's disciples, but also for Jesus, whom John had been an important point of reference. But Jesus interprets the seemingly negative turn of events as a heavenly sign that he should begin his own ministry. Although Jesus' initial proclamation takes up John's call to repentance, he does not follow it up, as John used to do, with a threat of the *wrath to come*. The God, whom Jesus affectionately calls "Father," is not an angry and punishing God, but *slow to anger and rich in steadfast love* (Ex 34:6; Ps 86:15, 103:8, 145:8) Jesus does not contradict John's message but rather perfects it. And to drive home his point, Jesus follows up his proclamation with visual demonstration – he cures every disease, releases those held in demonic bondage and relieves every affliction. Thus, the crisis of John's arrest opens wide the door for the *One greater than John* to perfect what John has begun.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to look at crises through the eyes of faith and see them as opportunities, rather than threats. 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)
- 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 25 January 2026 – Saturday 31 January 2026

Sun	25 JAN 9:00	RIP (F) MARGARET O'SHEA	Wed	28 JAN 12:15	TG ST ANTHONY & ST JUDE TADDEUS
Sun	25 JAN 10:15	RIP (M) CORNELIUS O'SULLIVAN		28 JAN 6:30PM	PROVINCIAL MINISTER - AIDEN McGRATH, OFM
Sun	25 JAN 12:00	RIP (F) SHEILA MANUEL	Thu	29 JAN 12:15	SR - FR JOHN JESUS
Mon	26 JAN 12:00	BD - FR REU GALOY, OFM	Fri	30 JAN 12:15	RIP (M) FRANK BRADLEY & RIP ANNIV (M) P.O. JOSEPH
Tues	27 JAN 12:15	SR - PATSY CONWAY	Sat	31 JAN 10:00	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			Sat	31 JAN 6:00PM	50TH WA - ANGEL & MARIA & RIP (M) ROBERT K. EWUSIE

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://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/0029VbA3Xba6xCsIP3jHja0I>



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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 conventional 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 Monday, 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

St Valentine's Night Dance

Sat. 14 February 2026 7.30 pm, Large Hall
Tickets on sale after Mass.

FUNERAL MASS

The Funeral Mass of
Audrey Yates will take place in the Chapel
at the East London Crematorium on
29th January 2026 at 9:30am.

TEMPORARY 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 asked the Traffic Control people to be mindful of our Function on 14th, and our Mass Times

Join CAFOD to find out about our work in Ukraine and the 2026 Lent Fast Day appeal. Josie O'Reilly will talk about CAFOD's Ukraine Emergency Programme Jane Crone from CAFOD in Brentwood will talk about the Lent Appeal: On: Saturday 14 February 2026. Time: Coffee from 10.45 am, starting at 11 am, finishing around 1pm.

At: The Beckett Centre St Thomas of Canterbury Church 557-559 High Rd, Woodford, Woodford Green IG8 0SG plenty of parking. All Welcome

Hatha Yoga Class in the Small Hall. **Mondays 6pm to 7.30pm.** Mixed ability. All welcome. Telephone Hariat 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!