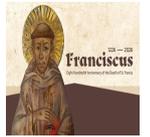




THE PILGRIM

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



Official Bulletin published by the Parish Office, 160 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1NS
Tel No: 02085341964 | Email: stratford@friar.org | Website: www.stfrancisassisistratford.com | Office Hours: Mon-Fri 09:30-15:00
"A fraternal and hearty welcome to the new members of our Parish Community and all visiting sisters and brothers"

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

22 February 2026

READ First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned!

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Follow Jesus' examples.

The reading from Genesis narrates the story of the first couple enjoying God's goodness in the garden. On their part, they need to follow the will of God. But the serpent tempted them, and they chose to believe in what it said and decided to disobey God. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us of the consequences of the choices being made: in the disobedience of Adam, sin and death came into the world; in the obedience of Jesus, justification is given to all. This is clearly illustrated in the gospel, where Jesus chooses to remain faithful to the Father in all the temptations the Tempter offers him.

REFLECT: Sin is a choice to follow our selfish desires, to enrich or satisfy ourselves even if it is against the will of God. We can follow Jesus' example who, despite the temptations, chose to remain faithful to the Father and did not take shortcuts. Life is about making choices. Our readings tell us that our choices can either give us life or death; they can lead us to God or away from him. We are reminded to always make our choices according to God's will. Ultimately, when we face our Father, our choices, not our abilities, will determine who we are before His eyes.

RESPOND: Let us strengthen ourselves by prayer, fasting, and reflecting on God's word.

Prayer: Father, help us to be faithful to you as we make choices daily.

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.
- **Daily 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 -06:00 pm
- Saturday Morning Prayer -09:40 am

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE

The **Church** is **OPEN**
every **WEDNESDAY**
after the 12:15pm MASS for

MASS INTENTIONS Sunday 22 Feb 2026 – Saturday 28 Feb 2026

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------|--|-----|---------------|--|
| Sun | 22 FEB 9:00 | DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE GERAGHTY FAMILY | Wed | 25 FEB 12:15 | RIP - THE TWOMEY FAMILY |
| Sun | 22 FEB 10:15 | RIP (F) MARIE McADAM | Wed | 25 FEB 6:30 | BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS & SI PHILOMENA BOENKE |
| Sun | 22 FEB 12 Noon | RIP (M) GEORGE WHITE | Thu | 26 FEB 12:15 | RIP - THE BATT FAMILY |
| Mon | 23 FEB 12:15 | RIP (M) PAUL & THE HOLY SOULS | Fri | 27 FEB 12:15 | DECEASED MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF ANN BAKER. |
| Tues | 24 FEB 12:15 | TG ST JUDE TADDEUSH AND ST ANTHONY, & SI - ANN BAKER | Sat | 28 FEB 10:00 | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH & HOLY SOULS |
| | | | Sat | 28 FEB 6:00PM | RIP - THE NEGAITIS 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/vtk8vse4> 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/0029VbA3Xba6xCSIP3Jia0I>



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

Echoes from the Heart of St Francis of Assisi.

“It was not just that the masses were stirred by the fervor of the moment; great numbers were seized with the desire to imitate the perfection of Christ and these followed Francis’ footsteps, making light of the fleeting attractions of the world.”

Bonaventure, Major Life

PILGRIMAGES TO ASSISI

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2026

September 18 – 22 2026 (24 People Max)

Chaplain – Fr Desire, OFM

October 9 – 13 2026 (24 people Max)

Chaplain – Fr. Yusuf, OFM

COST £550.00 ALL INCLUSIVE.

Please see posters
at the back of the Church for details.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross commence on Friday 20 February 2026 up to and including Friday 27 March 2026 at 6:30pm, followed by Mass.

GLUTEN FREE

HOLY COMMUNION WAFERS

From Sunday 1st March 2026, we will introduce Gluten Free Holy Communion Wafers. Anyone wishing to receive, please let the Friar presiding at the Mass know when you go up to receive Holy Communion. Thank you.

REPOSITORY:

The Repository will be open after all Sunday Masses on 8 March 2026. St Francis of Assisi Candles, Statues, Prayer Cards, Tau Crosses etc., as well as the usual Candles, Rosary Beads and so forth. *Cash only please.*

HOT MEALS ON SATURDAY FOR THE HOMELESS.

We are providing a Hot Meal on Saturday for the Homeless. All donations from our Parishioners are very much appreciated. Thank you.

CATHOLIC UNION – YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION 2026

Forgiveness – What does it look like to you?
Send your entry in to: info@catholicunion.org.uk
by 22/5/2026. Open to Age Groups Reception to Year 6. For full details, see poster at the back of the Church.

CATHOLIC UNION – YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION 2026.

Why do we go to Confession?

Open to Secondary School Years 8 to 11.

Essays to be hand written, scanned & posted to Catholic Young Writers Award 2026, 22 Redcross Way, London SE1 1TA. No more than 1200 words & should include specific reference to Scripture, including Christ giving authority to His Apostles to forgive sins in his name, to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, & to relevant papal documents, incl. Pope St John Paul’s Reconciliatio et Paenitentia (1984).

Deadline: 30 June 2026.

Contact: Sam Ayerter of the K.S.C.

LENTEN APPEAL – ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD.

As part of our Lenten Appeal, we are celebrating the 800 Year Anniversary to the Death of St Francis. Our Lenten Appeal will be for the St Francis Leprosy Guild. There will be a box at the back of the Church for you to place your donations all during Lent. As always, we thank you sincerely for your generosity.

HOME VISITS TO HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS.

Do you know any of our Parishioners who are sick and/or housebound, and would like Holy Communion and/or Confession? Please contact the Parish Office with the details of the person concerned, and a visit by a Priest will be arranged.