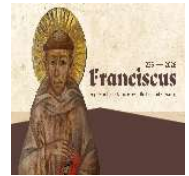




THE PILGRIM

St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church E15 1BJ

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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"

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23 AUGUST 2026

READ First Reading: Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Responsorial Psalm: O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36#

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

The Church belongs to the Lord.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah pronounces judgment on the palace master, indicating that the faithful Eliakim will take his place. Meanwhile, Paul praises the wisdom of God's plan for salvation in the second reading. This culminates in the gospel reading, where Simon proclaims Jesus as the "Messiah, the Son of the Living God." In response, Jesus renamed Simon to "Peter," the "rock" on which the Lord built His Church.

REFLECT: Today's gospel reading highlights the beginning of the Church. From the very words of Jesus, we understand that the Church belongs to the Lord, who is also its builder. What is our role then? We belong to this Church of Christ, and together with Peter, we help build it up. Since Peter is the rock, we are like the other stones and pebbles. As such, let us allow the Lord, the Master Builder, to work with us and through us. Let us ask ourselves: How am I helping to build up the Church of Christ? We must remember that no matter how small a stone we are, the Lord can still use us to create something beautiful.

RESPOND: Volunteer! Become an active member of your community.

Prayer: Pray for the Church's leaders and ministers, that they may stay faithful to its Master.

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**
Vicar

- 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: 12:15pm
- Wed - 07:00pm
- Sat - 10:00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed: 01:00pm – 06:00pm
Sat: 10:30am – 11:30 am

Reconciliation

Wed: 05:00pm - 06:00pm
Sat: 10:30am - 11:30am,
05:00pm - 05:45pm & by Appointment

Novena/Rosary

Tue: St. Anthony 12:45pm
Wed: Franciscan Crown 01:30pm
Divine Mercy 03:00pm
Mo. of Perpetual Help 05:00pm
Holy Rosary 06:00pm
Sat: Morning Prayer 09:40am

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/4weu2mh6>
or <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbA3ba6xCSIP3JJia0I>



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>



MASS INTENTIONS Sunday 23 August 2026 – Saturday 29 Aug 2026

Sun	23 AUGUST 9AM	RIP/ANNIV THERESA BRAMBLE AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE GERAGHTY FAMILY	Wed	26 AUGUST 12:15	GH/SR - THERESA MARRON
Sun	23 AUGUST 10:15	RIP (F) MAGDALENE KHANOBA	Wed	26 AUGUST 7PM	BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS
Sun	23 AUGUST 12PM	RIP (F) AGNES McMILLAN	Thur	27 AUGUST 12:15	SI - ELSA IANNICELLI AND RIP/ANNIV - MICHAEL J.M. WEEKES AND GH - ANGELA ALVES
Mon	24 AUGUST 12:15	BD (M) - FR MICHAEL O'GRADY, OFM	Fri	28 AUGUST 12:15	FUNERAL MASS - CHUCKWUEBUKA EZIGWE, R.I.P
Tues	25 AUGUST 12:15	FMU	Sat	29 AUGUST 10AM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			Sat	29 AUGUST 6PM	RIP - JONATHAN PETERS

TG - Thanksgiving, SI - Special Intention, BD - Birthday, WA - Wedding Anniversary, ST - Safe Travel, GH - Good Health, SR - Speedy Recovery, RIP - Death/Death Anniversary

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

"Blessed the man who is patient with his neighbour's shortcomings as he would like him to be if he were in a similar position himself."

Writings of St Francis

Franciscan Jubilee Pilgrim Stamp Available

Pilgrims visiting our parish may receive the St. Francis of Assisi Pilgrim Stamp. If you would like your pilgrim passport stamped, please approach the priest celebrant after Mass or at another appropriate time.

Franciscan Mission Union

Please Visit the FMU Office!

As you make your way to or from the parking lot, we warmly invite you to stop by the **Franciscan Missionary Union (FMU) Office**, conveniently located below the Sacristy.

The FMU Office is our link to the Franciscan missions throughout the world. We invite you to become a **Mission Partner** in whatever way you are able, helping to support the Church's missionary work and the ministry of the Franciscans.

Our friendly volunteers will be delighted to welcome you, answer your questions, and assist you.

Thank you for your generosity and support. May the Lord richly bless you and your loved ones.

St. Anthony of Padua

the Patron Saint of the Franciscan Mission,
Pray for us!

Our Franciscan Jubilee Campaign is ongoing!

Join us in bringing hope to those in need by helping us provide **clothing, nutritious meals for children, and clean water**. Kindly drop off your donation at the **FMU aHEOffice**. Thank you for your generosity and support. May God bless you abundantly!



MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT & LOVE OFFERING

FOR THE FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR ACTIVITIES

The donation box is located below the image of
St. Francis of Assisi

THE FEAST OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE - MONDAY 24TH AUGUST

There will be an additional Mass at 7pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026/2027

The Application Forms will be available at the back of the Church, *from the Parish Office* The Programme of Meeting Dates will follow shortly. Please note that in a change from last year, **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL TAKE PLACE, FOR ALL CANDIDATES, ON THE FEAST OF CORUS CHRISTI – SUNDAY 30TH MAY 2027 – AT 2PM.**

R.C.I.A. (Journey of Faith)

Are you, or do you know anyone, interested in becoming a Catholic, or, have you strayed from the Catholic Faith and wish to return and refresh your understanding? Do you wish to attain the Sacrament of Holy Communion/Confirmation (adults only)? Please contact Des Hoddy, Pastoral Assistant via email pastoral@friar.org, or, at the Parish Office – 020 8534

FUNERAL MASS

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 2026

Mr Chuckwuebuka Ezigwe, RIP

ST ANTHONY'S DEVOTIONAL HEALING OIL

There are bottles of Healing Oil available at the Church and the Parish Office *for a donation of £5.*

Your donation will help support the Franciscans in their mission. Thank you all.

PJs Praise and Worship Night

St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate

Women age 17-25 - 4-8pm

Dress code is Pyjamas (you can change in the church if you prefer). Tickets available on EventBrite or scan QR Code on the poster.

PARISH NOTICES

We would like to remind everyone, please **DO NOT TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS DURING MASS**, and would remind everyone that it is illegal to take photographs without the permission of the people being photographed.

Once again, we ask drivers who park in the car park for Mass **NOT TO DOUBLE PARK**. Two members of congregation had to leave their cars last Sunday, because people had double and in one case, triple parked.

Thank you.