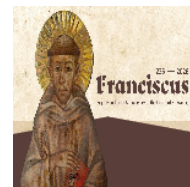




THE PILGRIM

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"

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 30 AUGUST 2026

READ First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting O Lord, my God.

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-27

"God's ways are not our ways."

The prophet Jeremiah expresses his lament to God as he suffers for being His messenger. In the second reading, St. Paul explains that a Christian's foremost duty is to offer oneself to God. A Christian can exercise good judgment in God rather than being confined by specific legal principles. In the Gospel, Jesus instructs His disciples that anyone who wishes to follow Him must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Him.

REFLECT: At the time of Jesus, the popular Jewish expectation was that of a royal and political Messiah who would bring instant glory to Israel regarding military success, wealth, and prosperity. Christ's disciples shared this belief so that we can understand Peter's reaction to the Lord's pronouncement. In a way, Peter was asking Jesus to abandon the way of the Messiah, and so Jesus rebuked him. Peter allowed his pre-conception of the Messiah to prevent him from really knowing the Lord. But not only Peter. We, too, sometimes want to see the Lord according to our perspective. We want God to act according to our desires. We question him when things happen that do not match our wishes or when prayers go unanswered. Let us be humble enough to admit that "God's ways are not our ways."

RESPOND: Pray for people who stand for justice, truth, and freedom.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen me when following you becomes difficult.

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/4weu2mhl6>
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 30 August 2026 – Saturday 5 September 2025

Sun	30 AUGUST 9AM	F.M.U.	Wed	2 SEPT 12:15	SI – CHRISTINE, MICHEL, DAPHNE & GEOFFREY CHICHEPIVITICHE
Sun	30 AUGUST 10:15	RIP – ANN-MARY GOODMAN AND TG – MARY ANN YEBOAH & FAMILY	Wed	2 SEPT 7PM	POPE LEO XIV
Sun	30 AUGUST 12PM	BD – ANNETTE HODDY	Thur	3 SEPT 12:15	RIP (F) – BERNADETTE KINSELLA.
Mon	31 AUGUST 12:15	SI – CHRISTINE, MICHEL, DAPHNE & GEOFFREY CHICHEPIVITICHE	Fri	4 SEPT 12:15	SI – CHRISTINE, MICHEL, DAPHNE & GEOFFREY CHICHEPIVITICHE
Tues	1 SEPTEMBER 12:15	F.M.U.	Sat	5 SEPT 10AM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
		BD/RIP (F) – BREEDA ALLEN	Sat	5 SEPT 6PM	PATRICK & BRONA MASCHARENHAS

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 Office**. 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

Fr. Desire's birthday is on the 6th of Sept.

2026. We will have a simple birthday celebration for him after the 12:00NN Mass at the Parish Large Hall. Kindly bring food to share with other parishioners.

From this day on, we will give identity to our halls, the large hall will be **Porziuncola Hall**. While the small hall will be **San Damiano Hall**.

MONDAY 31ST AUGUST 2026.
This is a Bank Holiday and the
Parish Office will be closed.
Mass will be 12:15 as usual.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026/2027

There are only 2 weeks left for Parents/Guardians to get the Application Forms completed, and back to 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) – Introduction Meeting

A meeting will take place on **Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7pm** at the Friary.

ST ANTHONY'S DEVOTIONAL HEALING OIL

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

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

Novena Masses for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi will start on the 25th of Sept to 3rd of Oct 2026 at 7PM.

Donation envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Those who wish to sponsor a novena mass for a particular intention, offerings will be used to upgrade our kneelers, purchase the images of St. Joseph and St. Francis of Assisi.

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.