



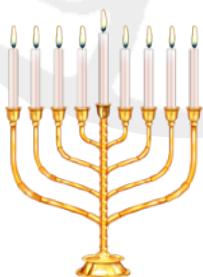
# ST FRANCIS PARISH

## NEWSLETTER



Mass @ 11.00 am St Francis of Assisi – Before Mass each Saturday @ 5.15 pm The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Parish Rosary at 5:30, (Please contact Fr Felix directly to book a date/time for reconciliation)  
(Tel 01787 472477 / [halstead@brcdt.org](mailto:halstead@brcdt.org)).

Date	Time & Location	Intentions
Saturday 31st January 2026 St John Bosco	6pm Vigil Mass	Blessings on all parishioners
Sunday 1st February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9am Mass St Nicholas	Health and healing of the sick
Sunday 1st February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11am Mass Halstead	Blessings on all parishioners
Monday 2nd February Candlemas, Presentation of the Lord	Mass @ 6pm	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for health and wellbeing of all
Tuesday 3rd February Ss Blaise & Ansgar, Bishops	No Mass	
Wednesday 4th February	No Mass	
Thursday 5th February St Agatha	No Mass	
Friday 6th February Ss Paul Miki & Companions	Memorial St Paul Miki and Companions. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction @ 8.30am and Mass @ 9.30am	<i>First reading: Zephaniah 2: 3, 3:12-13</i> <i>Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12</i>



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- We shall be taking a crib collection to support Brentwood Youth society
- Our Parish Youth Club takes place on the last Saturday of the month. It is open to ages 5-18.
- We are calling for sponsorship for the sanctuary lights for 2026. Write your intention and hand it over to Fr Felix.
- The parish has a Facebook page that gets updated daily with Mass readings and other items of information, consider having a look at it.

<https://www.facebook.com/Stfrancishalsteadparish/>

- If you recently joined our parish, we would like to have your name registered in our records. Please pick up a form at the back, fill it and return it to me or drop it at the back of the church.
- It will be beneficial for you to identify with an aspect of our parish life by committing your time and resources to the good of our parish. We need reinforcements on our volunteer team. If you would like to join our Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, please speak to Fr. Felix.
- It is a wholesome thought to pray for the dead (2 Maccabees 12:46). Consider offering a Mass for your departed loved ones and also for the living. Pick a form at the church's back and fill out your intentions.
- There is a chance for communion of the sick at homes for the housebound. Please let me know if any parishioners require a visit.
- It costs approximately £4,000 monthly to run our parish. Please consider sending an offering or a standing order to the parish. You can also make a donation to St. Francis of Assisi Church. Sort code: 40-13-22. Account Number: 71387014

- Everyone is welcome to participate in the Sanctuary Light sponsorship for 2024. You have the option to contribute £5.00 towards our weekly prayers for your specific intentions. Many thanks to those who signed up last year.
- Candles/ votive: £37.22
- Weekend collection: £422.18
- Second Collection Racial Justice: £45.99
- Many thanks for your generosity to the parish.
- The Holy Water font is now available for us to use. From the tap, take some home for your use. Before using, please let Fr. Felix know. Feel free to bless yourself with the Holy Water font; however, sanitise your hands before use to minimise the risk of possible infection

## For your diaries:

- Youth Club: Every Last Saturday of the Month. Next one is coming up on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Coffee morning on Friday from 10am to midday



Father Felix

**Meditation:** Do you know and experience the mercy God has for you through the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for you and for your sins upon the cross? The Lord Jesus took our sins upon himself and nailed them to the cross so that we could receive pardon rather than condemnation, freedom rather than slavery to sin, and healing for the wounds caused by sin, injustice, and evil.

### **God's mercy knows no limits**

God the Father never tires of showing his steadfast love and mercy to those who seek him. Scripture tells us that his mercies never cease. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (The Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:22-23). What can hold us back from receiving God's mercy and pardon? Anger, resentment, an unwillingness to forgive or to ask for pardon can hold us back from the healing power and merciful love that has power to wash away guilt and condemnation, fear and anger, pride and resentment. The Lord Jesus offers us freedom to walk in his way of love and forgiveness, mercy and goodness.

### **Imitate God the Father's mercy**

We are called to be merciful towards



one another just as our heavenly Father has been merciful towards each one of us. Do you quickly forgive those who wrong you or cause you grief or pain, or do you allow ill-will and resentment to grow in your heart? Do you pray for those who have lost sight of God's mercy, pardon, truth, and justice?

In the Old Testament we see the example of Daniel, a man of great faith in God's mercy and just ways, who prayed daily, not only for himself, but for his own people, and for his persecutors as well. Daniel was 'shamefaced' before God because he recognised that his own people who had been called and chosen by God as the people of Israel, were now suffering in exile due to their sins and unfaithfulness to the covenant God had made with them (see Daniel 9:4-10). Daniel did not sit in judgment over the failings and sins of his own people, instead he pleaded with God for compassion, pardon, and restoration. Our shame will turn to joy and hope if we confess our sins and ask for God's healing love and mercy..

### **Do not judge**

Why does Jesus tell his followers to "not judge lest they be judged"? Jesus knew the human heart all too well. We judge too quickly or unfairly with mixed motives, impure hearts, and prejudiced minds. The heart must be cleansed first in order to discern right judgment with grace and mercy rather than with ill will and vengeance.

**Votive candles**

A polite reminder that the church has to purchase candles at considerable expense - last week the only contribution was 20p... Please remember to give generously if you light a candle.



Remember to donate your old stamps - they can be turned into real cash for various deserving charities we support

**Hiring the church hall...**

Please contact Lynda Jackson on 07855464876 - go straight to Lynda and not through Father Felix please!

**Medjugorje Web**

**D**o you ned a lift to our 'friendly Fridays'?

If you are in need of a lift in advance, the following dates are scheduled for our Saint Vincent De Paul Friday meetings:

January 30th

13 February

13th February

27th February

13th March

27th March

If you need a lift, please call and let them know - no need to be lonely just because you don't have transport! Fiona's number is 07597841417, Debbie's number is 07599537582



CoolClips.com

**S**t Agatha was canonised because of her unwavering faith, courage, and martyrdom for Christ. A young Christian in third-century Sicily, she refused to renounce her faith or submit to a Roman official who sought to force her into marriage. Despite imprisonment, torture, and great suffering, Agatha remained steadfast in her devotion to God. She died around AD 251, choosing faithfulness over fear. Her witness inspired early Christians, and devotion to her quickly spread throughout the Church. She is honoured as a model of purity, courage, and trust in God, and is remembered as one of the Church's earliest virgin martyrs.

If you have any quality used items (or unwanted Christmas gifts!) which could be sold at a 'pre-loved' or jumble sale, **please keep them safely at home** until the new storage shed has been built behind the church, thank you.