

**Please feel free to take this booklet home with you**



**THE PARISH OF  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
BARKINGSIDE**

A parish church in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, part of Redbridge Deanery in the Barking Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Chelmsford.

**CANDLEMAS – A B C**  
**1 February 2026**

*A warm welcome to all newcomers and visitors to St. Francis Church  
Please do join us for refreshments after the 10.15am Mass*

**TODAY'S SERVICES**

8.00am      Mass

10.15am      Parish Mass

The Parish Mass today will be celebrated by Fr. Simon Elman

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi (3: 1 – 5)

Thus says the Lord God:

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

## Psalm 24 (7 – 10)

### **R. The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is this King of glory?’

‘The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle’    **R.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is this King of glory?’

‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory’. R.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (2: 14 – 18)

Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke  
(2: 22 – 40)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon - this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the

consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### Post Communion Collect

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: -**

*...the sick and suffering and those who care for them, those who are alone, isolated and vulnerable, and especially for:* Connie Barnes, Vicky Berrill, Cornelio Denhere, Helen Forbes, Brian Good, Judy Harvey, Liz Leatherbarrow, Eamonn Moloney, Simon Pettit, Mary Roper, Graham Sandy, Sofia Savvas, Trinny, Adrian Shelton, Pauline Sheridan, Christine Street, Norman Street, Anita Watts, Heather Wheeler, Mary Vadsala.

## **PLEASE ADVISE NICHOLAS OF ANY ALTERATIONS.**

*....the recently departed, including:* Donald Skelhorn

*....those whose anniversaries of death occur this week, including:*

1st	Frederick [Fred] Tilley, Gertrude [Gertie] Tilley, Qunton Bailie
2nd	Edith Bellis, Harry Schrier, Erhel Brimson, John Hands
3rd	Theodore Parkinson
4th	Beatrice Dryborough
5th	Marjorie Bullard, Alfred [Alf] Grinham
6th	Roger Sansom
7th	John Burgess

*....all those living or working in:* Marion Close, Marlowe Close.

## **THURSDAY MASS**

Until a new parish priest is appointed for St Francis there will only be a midweek Mass on the first Thursday of each month, at 10am. Next month the Mass will be on Thursday 5 February, and will be a Mass for Healing, including the laying on of hands and anointing.

**A COPY OF READINGS** for 15 February (Delia) is now available. Please collect from the back of church.

## **FINANCES AT ST FRANCIS**

Please take home and read the letter being given out today which explains the current financial situation at St Francis, and why it is important for the church to try to increase its income in this coming year. If you can help, that would be great.

Please take an extra copy of the letter to give to anyone you know who comes to St Francis but is not here today.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY: 18 February**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is an important day in the year to try to come to Mass. The introduction to Mass on Ash Wednesday marks the tone of the season: *Since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord. I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word. (Common Worship: Times and Seasons).*

Ash Wednesday Mass, with ashing (marking the forehead with ash as a sign of penitence) will be at 10am. Please note time.

## **OTHER SERVICES THIS WEEK**

Thurs 5 February **FERIA**

10.00am      Healing Mass

8 February **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

8.00am      Mass

10.15am      Parish Mass

## **SOME FUTURE DATES AT ST. FRANCIS FOR YOUR DIARIES**

18 February            **Ash Wednesday**  
                          10.00am Mass with Imposition of Ashes

2 March                **PCC Meeting**

Sunday 26 April      **Baking with Brass** at 3.00pm  
                          with Fairlop Brass

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

**Vicar** (position vacant)

**Churchwarden**

Mr. Nicholas Hurst  
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**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Mrs. Katie Mensah  
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## **PARISH OFFICE**

Weddings, Baptisms, Confirmations  
and Confessions

Please contact Mr. Nicholas Hurst as above