

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

NEWSLETTER



**Br. Piotr (Parish Priest and Guardian)- Br. Jim - Br. Francis –
Br. Loarne – Br. Anoop**

www.stfrancischester.co.uk

TIMES OF MASS

VIGIL MASS
SATURDAY 6.30 pm

SUNDAY
8.00 am
(at The Benedictine Abbey)
9.30 am
(Church)

MASS IN POLISH
12 Noon & 4.30 pm

WEEKDAYS
Every day 12 noon

Tuesday, Thursday and
Saturday 8.00am

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday and Saturday
11.00 am – 12 noon
and Saturday
6.00pm – 6.30pm

ADORATION

Friday and Saturday
11.00 am – 12 noon

Franciscan Friary
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Parish Priest
Br. Piotr Anusiewicz OFM Cap

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 15th December 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Psalm Isaiah 12;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

The Gospel in today's Liturgy, the Third Sunday of Advent, presents us with various groups of people — the crowd, the publicans and soldiers — who, touched by John the Baptist's preaching, ask him: "What then should we do?" (Lk 3:10) (...)

By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us — let us not forget this — has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do? Let us ask him this question repeatedly. It also recurs in the Bible: in the Acts of the Apostles, several people, hearing Peter who proclaimed Jesus' resurrection, "were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'" (2:37). Let us ask ourselves as well: what would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society? The Season of Advent is meant for this: to stop and ask ourselves how to prepare for Christmas. We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass. But let us ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What shall we do?

Pope Francis

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

For pilgrims of hope: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope

**FEASTS AND PRAYER DAYS
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Saturday 21st December
St. Peter Canisius - 1521-1597**

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Tuesday 24th December
Christmas Eve**

12 noon Mass in English
7.30 pm – Evening Carol Service
in English
8.00 pm – Christmas Vigil Mass in English
11.00 pm – Carol Service in Polish
00.00 Christmas Midnight Mass in Polish

**Wednesday 25th December
Christmas Day**

8.00 am in the Abbey – Dawn Mass of
Christmas in English
**9.30 am – Mass of Christmas Day
in English**
12 noon – Mass of Christmas Day in
Polish
(Please note there will be no 4.30 pm Mass today)

**Thursday 26th December
St. Stephen's Day**

12 noon – Mass in English
4.30 pm – Mass in Polish

Collection 8th December

Cash: £ 489,52

Gift Aid: £ 333

Thank you for your generosity!

Weekly Thursday Holy Hour

You are very welcome to join us on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm in the Chapter Chapel at St Francis Friary. Entry via the green door at the side of the Church

**We invite you to join the Divine
Renovation Book Club!**

As a fruit of our recent parish meeting, we are launching a weekly discussion group focused on the *Divine Renovation* program. Starting January 21, we will meet every Tuesday in the parish hall and online via Zoom to discuss one chapter of the book each week.

This initiative is a direct outcome of our last parish gathering, aimed at deepening our faith and engagement as a community. We are now taking orders for the book. To purchase a copy, simply send an email with your name to stfrancis.chester@gmail.com by December 21. The price is £20.

**Church Cleaning and Decorating and
Christmas catechesis**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the church cleaning last Friday. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

We would like to announce that the next pre-Christmas church cleaning and **Christmas decorating** will take place on **Saturday, December 21st, at 4:00 PM.**

During this time, there will be a **Christmas catechesis** for children aged 6 to 13 in the parish hall.

We invite everyone who is willing to help, as well as all families with children, to join us!

Morning Masses at the Friary with the Capuchin Brothers

We warmly invite you to join the Capuchin Friars for Mass at 8:00am in their chapel on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. On these days, there will be no Mass at the Benedictine Abbey on Curzon Park.

You are welcome to arrive before 7:00am to participate in Lauds and Adoration or join us directly at 8:00am for Mass.

Please enter the church and wait for the friars to invite you into the chapel. The transition from the church to the chapel will take place as follows:

6:55am: Transition to the chapel for Lauds

7:55am: Transition to the chapel for Mass

We kindly ask that you avoid entering during prayers and wait until one of the friars comes to welcome you.

We look forward to praying together with you.

Stay Updated with Our Parish News!

If you would like to stay informed about current parish matters and receive our newsletter directly on your phone, join our parish WhatsApp group by scanning the QR code.



Open Parish Meeting

Dear Parishioners!

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your presence at our recent parish meeting. Your active participation, thoughtful contributions, and the fresh ideas you shared were truly inspiring and greatly appreciated.

A special thank you goes to those who took the time and effort to prepare the refreshments. Your generosity made the gathering even more welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

We are blessed to have such a dedicated and supportive parish community, and we look forward to continuing this journey of faith together.

May God bless you all abundantly!

REPOSITORY

We invite you to visit the **repository**, where you can find **Christmas cards** and **opłatki** (traditional Christmas wafers)

Ministry to the Sick – Holy Communion and Confession

Any sick person, whether at home or in a care home, can receive Holy Communion and Confession weekly, monthly, or during the Advent season. If you or someone you know would like to benefit from this ministry offered by our brothers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact us at stfrancis.chester@gmail.com.



Please let us remember our sick
Parishioners in our prayers:

Terry Halpin, Barbara Edwards, Kevin Roberts, Margaret
Davis, Hilary Linty, Patrick Hannah,
Elle Mae Dunne, Elaine Bruce, Christopher Browne,
Gill Wright, Emma Noble, Colette Lazenby,
Rita James, Sheila McCoy, Peter Mooney
and Andrea Burns

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 14 December Vigil Mass	6.30 pm	Parishioners
Sunday 15 December	8.00 am	In the Abbey - Sisters' intention
	9.30 am	Maureen and Michael Cheston
Polish Mass:	12.00 noon	Zbigniew RIP
	4.30 pm	Julia and Kazimierz - 45 th Anniversary of Marriage
Monday 16 December	12.00 noon	Angela Meehan and Family
Tuesday 17 December	8.00 am	A Mass of thanksgiving for blessings received by my family this year
	12.00 noon	Fr Jinson
Wednesday 18 December	12.00 noon	Friars and Benefactors
Thursday 19 December	<u>8.00 am</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	12.00 noon	Vocations
Friday 20 December	12.00 noon	Holy Souls
Saturday 21 December	8.00 am	A Mass of thanksgiving for blessings which I have received this year
	12.00 noon	Br Michael



Prayers are requested for those Anniversaries
occur this week - May they rest in peace

18.12 Joan Irene Warne (1998)
20.12 Joseph Charles Jones (2001)
21.12 Bernadette Randles (2004),
John Christopher Carrier (2000)