



Newsletter- September 2025

Dear brothers and sisters,

Earlier this year my uncle Tony died. You could say he was instrumental in my vocation story because one Christmas he gave me a book, 'Seven Story Mountain' by Thomas Merton. It was the right book at the wrong time. I didn't read it until years later. Then it became the right book at the right time. I read it and I was different because I had. The right book at the right time has the power to change us, even the very direction of our lives. That book awakened a desire planted deep in my heart, to give myself to something, Someone, without reservation, Someone worthy of everything.

As I prepared to move to London last month I did what we friars call a 'poverty check'. My aim was to carry everything from Derry to London, via plane and train. I managed to do it with the exception of a box of letters and cards which I shipped over the sea. In that box I came across a letter from my uncle Tony, the only one I have from him. He wrote it after I celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in Sydney after my ordination to the priesthood in 2018. In the letter he writes:

'Who can fathom the mystery of the human soul and the manner of each in response to the infusion of God's grace? I fancy there is a commonality in the nature of our saints that they possess simultaneously dual aspects of the vigor of youth and the wisdom of age. The natural course for most of us is that the disciplines of the latter (wisdom of age) are in part at least, learned through the loss of the former (vigor of youth).





Newsletter- September 2025

Pride is a willing bed fellow of self and like the cunning cat creeps back unseen each time we think we have put it out.'

Our two new saints, St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, possessed 'simultaneously the vigor of youth and the wisdom of age'. How? At some point they killed the cat - pride. Or they allowed the cat to be killed. By who? Jesus Christ. Pride went, humility found a home in them. Not their own humility, but the humility of Jesus Christ, whom they welcomed as the Divine Guest of their souls. Humility Incarnate, Love Incarnate, Wisdom Incarnate, was welcomed by young Carlo (died age 15) and young Pier Giorgio (died age 24). No doubt pride once had a place in each of them (as it does in each of us born with a good but wounded human nature), but pride is no match for the humility of Christ.

May the two new saints show us by their example and help us by their prayers to welcome afresh the Humble, Wise, and ever Youthful One. Why not right now? And give Him permission to make us saints. Because what else is there?

Your brother in Christ,

Fr Francesco.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (1/7)



September 13 Discipleship Day Schedule

10 am: Holy Mass

11:30 am: Ministry (in and outside the Friary.)

1:30 pm: Lunch

2:30 pm: Presentation on the virtue of hope

3:30 pm: Adoration, Evening Prayer & Benediction



4:30 pm: Clean-up/ Departure

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the day

LUNCH: "BRING SOME/ SHARE SOME"!



Everyone is invited to bring along something for Lunch, which may be able to be shared with others. We will have a team of "disciples" to prepare/ arrange the lunch while others are involved in ministry. This should allow for a more leisurely and fraternal gathering for our midday meal.

Thank you Fr Tansi!



With deep gratitude we offer thanks to God for our brother Fr Tansi for his faithful and generous service to our community as Local Servant over the last 6 years. We echo the words of Jesus, 'Well done, good and faithful servant'. Thank you brother, you have our prayers. Please keep us all in yours.

.....





ANNOUNCEMENTS (2/7)

Transitions and appointments

- Fr. Juniper is now assigned to St. Columba Friary in Derry, while Fr. Tansi is assigned to St. Pio Friary in Bradford. Br. Paul, who is a temporary professed friar in the U.S.A, has now joined our friary. Fr. Francesco is now the the new Local Servant of our friary. Fr. Francesco's assistant (Local Vicar) is Fr. Charles. Fr. Michael remains our European Regional Servant, while Fr. Bernard is now his assistant (European Regional Vicar). Fr Emmanuel has been appointed the new vocations director for Europe.
- ✓ Simon Vittitow (formerly Br John Baptist): Simon Vittitow, (formerly Br John Baptist) is doing well and wanted to share his email address with all our fellow disciples: belovedson.siv@gmail.com

March for Life

- The annual March for Life will take place on Saturday, September 6. Please join the friars and thousands of others as we pray and witness to the sanctity of all human life, from conception until natural death. For details, go to: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/>
- ✓

New Website

- Our new website (<https://www.franciscanfriars.co.uk/>) is now up and running. This is now our main mode of communicating information. Please visit our website if you would like to keep in touch with us.
- ✓





ANNOUNCEMENTS (3/7)

Consent Forms

✓ If you would like to receive this newsletter each month via email, please sign up on our website (<https://www.franciscanfriars.co.uk/>). Alternatively, you can contact Fr. Bernard on 0207 474 0766 or send an email to london@gmail.com to

✓ receive and fill in a consent form.

Parking Permits

Due to new rules affecting us, we can no longer offer parking permits to those driving to the friary. If you travel by car, you may park within the friary

✓ compound, however, since spaces are limited, this is offered on a first come-first served basis.

Rosaries

If you would like to help with donating rosaries for our Discipleship Day evangelization team, please contact Fr. Tansi on 0207 474 0766.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (4/7)

✓ Friar Benet's Kitchen:

We run Friar Benet's kitchen on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00am to 1pm.**

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we start our day by preparing and cooking the meal for our guests at about 9am and finish with clean-up and prayer together at about 2pm.

On Wednesdays, we begin our day at about 9:30am. We offer clothes donated by our local communities and friends, during which tea, coffee and pastries are available.

We finish with clean-up and prayer together at about 1:30pm.

We already have some amazing volunteers, but are always grateful to welcome new ones.

If you have time and energy and want to be part of this work of Mercy, **please contact Fr Charles-Benoit** on 0207 474 0766 or send an email at fbk.cfr.london@gmail.com

✓ Clothing needs:

We are always grateful for donations of clothing to our soup kitchen. Here are our current needs if you would like to donate to our clothing pantry.

CLOTHING NEEDS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| > Jumpers/Hoodies (Size: S/M/L/XL) | > Tee-shirts (Size: S/M/L/XL) |
| > Joggers/Tracksuits bottoms (S,M,L,XL) | > Jeans (Size: 28 to 36) |
| > Jackets / Fleece Jackets (Size: S/M/L/XL) | > Socks |

OTHERS

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| > Toiletries (shower gel, deodorant, razor) | |
| > Bleach and Bleach spray | > Anti-bacterial hand wash |
| > Laundry detergent (liquid). | |

Drop-offs can be done on soup kitchen days (Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am-2pm).

If you wish to come outside of these hours, please call the friary (020 74740766) to arrange a drop-off time.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (5/7)

✓ DONATIONS:

If you want to help us out by making a donation, you may do so:

-by scanning the QR code



Thank you

OR

- Online : <https://bit.ly/cfrstfidelis>

OR

-by making a Direct Transfer:

The Community of the Franciscan Friars

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Number: 11568574



We are truly grateful to
all who support us in
our work !
May God reward you !

✓ Thank you: We are truly grateful to all who have supported us in our work through the past year! May God greatly reward you!

✓ Next October Discipleship Day:

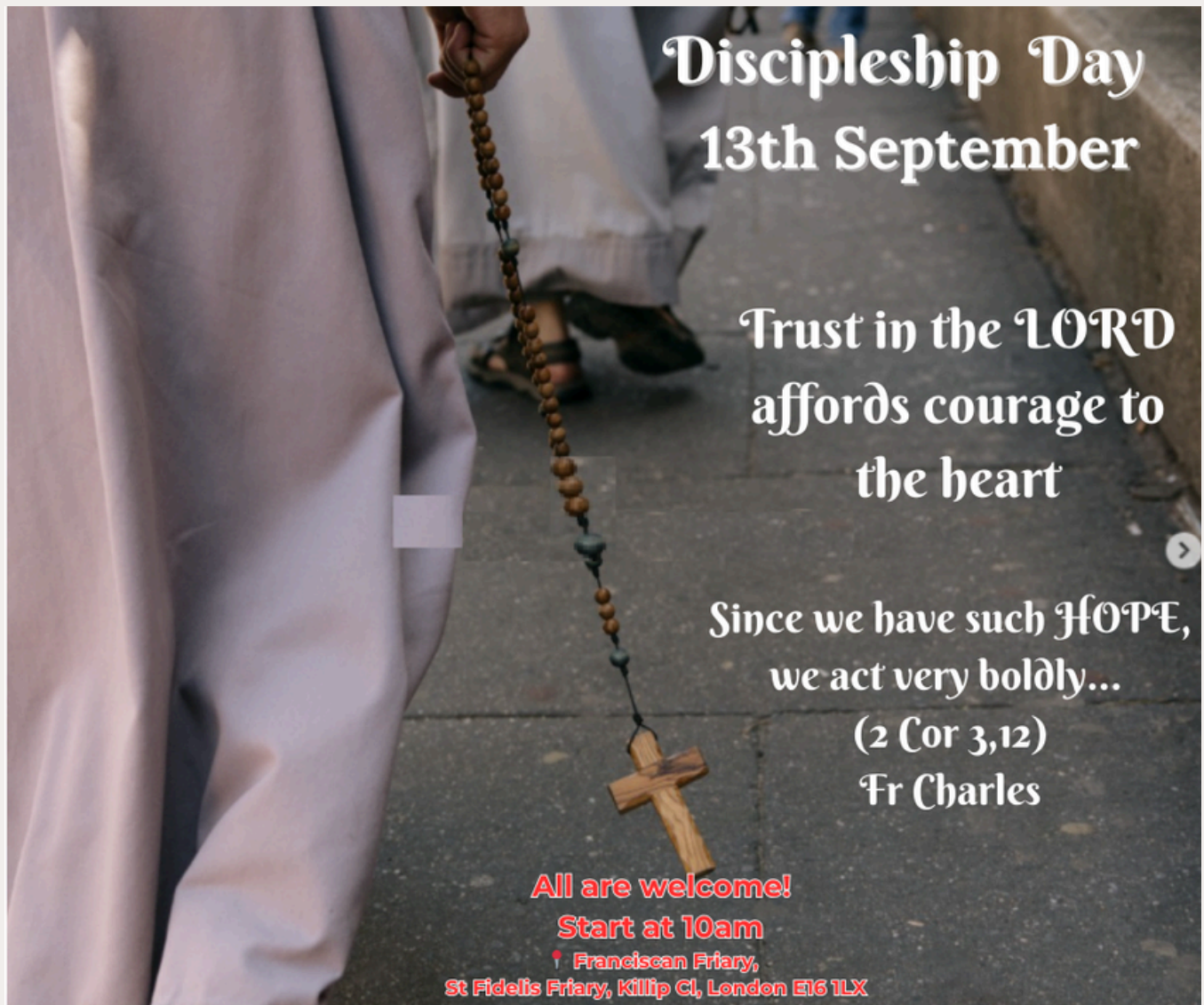
There will NOT be a Discipleship Day on October 4. It will be replaced by the annual celebration of the Transitus of Our Holy Father Saint Francis on Friday evening, October 3. More information to follow. Please join us!

“Our soul is like a hot air balloon. If by chance there is a mortal sin, the soul falls to the ground. Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon enabling the soul to rise again. . . It is important to go to confession often.” – St. Carlo Acutis

"Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God" – St. Carlo Acutis

"Two cigars...one for St. Peter and one for St. Paul; it's a double feast day today!" – St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear." – St. Pier Giorgio Frassati



Discipleship Day
13th September

Trust in the LORD
affords courage to
the heart

Since we have such **HOPE**,
we act very boldly...
(2 Cor 3,12)
Fr Charles

All are welcome!
Start at 10am
Franciscan Friary,
St Fidelis Friary, Killip Cl, London E16 1LX