



Newsletter- December 2025

Dear Brother and Sisters,

We've had some good questions from high school students over the last few weeks. During a recent school visit, there was time for Q & A with the 6th Form students. One question has stayed with me.

'What is the hardest thing you've had to overcome?'

The question came from a young man whose face revealed complete sincerity. Maybe that - the quality of the one who asked the question - along with the quality of the question itself, is why it has stayed with me.

The question has provoked another question: Why must things be overcome at all? And another:

Why not simply follow every whim, suggestion and inclination - just go with the flow?

To answer that I need only attend to my experience:

Where does going with the flow of every whim, suggestion and inclination take me?



Being human includes experiencing inclinations in one direction and yet being called (or invited or summoned) in another direction. I can be bent one way and meant for another. I might be enticed to sin, but I am called to virtue. This tension is one of the lingering effects of original sin. There is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life and a wide gate and easy road that leads to death. Jesus told us that (see Mt 7:13-14). Human experience confirms it. Overcoming is essential.

‘What is the hardest thing you’ve had to overcome?’

There are many ways I could answer that. During the high school visit, I mentioned a few things – fears, lies, temptations, the seven capital sins, ultimately self. It’s not finished yet.

And once we identify what needs to be overcome, how do we overcome?

‘You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, beware lest you be carried away with the error of lawless men and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen’ (2 Peter 3:17-18).

Fr Francesco.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (1/5)



JANUARY Discipleship Day – NEW SCHEDULE

11:30am – Rosary and Mass

1:30pm – Lunch

2:30pm – Talk

3:30pm Adoration/Evening Prayer

5pm – Conclusion



Clothing Needs: WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF MEN'S BOXERS/UNDERWEAR FOR OUR GUESTS AT FRIAR BENET'S KITCHEN.

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, Wednesday 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.





- ✓ **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 on 0207 474 0766 or send an email at fbk.cfr.london@gmail.com.
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- ✓ **Advent Parish Mission:** The friars will be leading a parish mission at St Stephen's Catholic Church, Manor Park, E125PJ. It will run from November 29-December 4. The friars will celebrate the parish Masses over the weekend and on the weekdays. The main mission services will start in the evenings (Monday to Thursday) at 7pm. The daily mission Mass will be at 9:15am, followed by a talk of the Virtues. For more information, please visit www.ss-stephenandnicholas.org
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- ✓ **Brothers from Bradford:** This year, our brothers from St. Pio Friary in Bradford will be joining us for a few days for our Christmas celebrations. It will be great to be with them again.
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- ✓ **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.
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✓ **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.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (5/5)

✓ **Rosaries**

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

✓ **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!

✓ **January Discipleship Day:** The Discipleship Day in January will be on Saturday, the 3rd. Please join us! AND REMEMBER THE NEW SCHEDULE 😊



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
of the RENEWAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS (6/6)

**Discipleship
Day
6th December**

**JESUS
Hope of all the
Nations**

talk by
Fr Francesco

Jesus is at work

All are welcome!

Start at 10am

† Franciscan Friary,
St Fidelis Friary, Killip Cl, London E16 1LX