



Newsletter- January 2026

Dear friends and fellow disciples,

The recently deceased Bishop Thomas McMahon came every year to our annual soup kitchen Christmas party and every year he would observe what happens on this day and say out loud, 'Pure Gospel!'

What happens on this day? People are gathered. Carols are sung. Meals are cooked and served and enjoyed. Greetings and gifts are given. Conversations are shared. And many other things too.

'Pure Gospel!'

What did he mean? I never got the chance to ask him. So now I can only speculate. But it has got me thinking, 'What is pure Gospel?'

It is more than a message and more than a hand out. It is more than information and more than giving help. It is, as Pope Benedict XVI said, not just informative but performative. It doesn't just say something, it does something. It is an event, something or rather Someone that happens to us, after which we are no longer the same. An encounter that gives life a new horizon and decisive direction.

It is Emmanuel.

It is God with us.

It is Good News because there is bad news. It is bad news overcome by Good News. It is Good News incarnate. It is God conquering for us, with us, and in us, what we could never conquer alone: Satan, sin and death. And boredom and loneliness too.





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'Pure Gospel' at a soup kitchen in Canning Town might look less dramatic than the overthrowing of Satan, sin, death, boredom and loneliness, but maybe kernels of this reality is what Bishop Thomas experienced during these days.

Christ is born for us in time. Now God is with us, all the way into the grave. And God is with us, all the way out of the grave. That is good reason to say and mean, 'Merry Christmas!'

So from all the friars here in Canning Town, we wish you a blessed new year and a very Merry Christmas! Hope to see again soon.

Fr Francesco.

January 3 Discipleship Day Schedule

11:30am: Rosary & Holy Mass

1:30 pm: Lunch

2:30 pm: Presentation on The Way of St Francis

3:30 pm: Adoration, Evening Prayer & Benediction

5pm: 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. Please bring only food which can be reheated as we won't have time to cook or bake any food. This should allow for a more leisurely and fraternal gathering for our midday meal.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (1/4)

Helper's of God's Precious Infants:

- ✓ Fr Bernard will be helping to lead a day of prayer in reparation for all the abortions at BPAS Twickenham. The event will take place on Saturday, January 31st, 2026 at St Margaret's Church, 130 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham, TW11RL. For further information: Helpers of God's Precious Infants: marg@helpersuk.org or 01727763832.

Always Forward Men's Hike:

- ✓ Fr Emmanuel will be leading a hike for men on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Please contact him at the friary for further info: 02074740766.

Youth 2000:

- ✓ Fr Emmanuel and Br Paul will be present at the next Youth 2000 event on Saturday, 24th January, 9am to 9pm at Sacred Heart, Wimbledon. For further info, see the website: <https://www.youth2000.org/> **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.

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 (2/4)

✓ **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)
- > Joggers/Tracksuits bottoms (S,M,L,XL)
- > Jackets / Fleece Jackets (Size: S/M/L/XL)
- > Tee-shirts (Size: S/M/L/XL)
- > Jeans (Size: 28 to 36)
- > 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 (3/4)

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 support us in our work.

May God greatly reward you!

✓ February Discipleship Day:

The Discipleship Day in February will be on Saturday, the 7th. Please join us!



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
of the RENEWAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS (4/4)



**Discipleship
Day
3rd January**

**The Way of St Francis
Blessed are
the poor
in Spirit**

talk
by Fr Bernard

**All are welcome!
Start at 11.30am**

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