



Newsletter- February 2026

Dear friends and fellow disciples,

I was speaking recently with someone who used to come to our soup kitchen. In our conversation, he described one of the friars as a 'good monk'. I was curious about what makes a good monk so I asked him 'What makes that friar a good monk?' After taking a moment to reflect on the question he answered, 'He's interested in you.' At first, it didn't sound like much. But as I thought about it, meeting someone who is really interested in you is rare.

G.K. Chesterton said that it was this particular characteristic, that of being really interested in the person in front of him, that gave St Francis his extraordinary personal power:

'From the Pope to the beggar, from the sultan of Syria in his pavilion to the ragged robbers crawling out of the wood, there was never a man who looked into those brown burning eyes without being certain that Francis Bernadone was really interested in him...' He 'treated the whole mob of men as a mob of kings.'

What made Francis just as interested in the individual life of a beggar, a thief, a leper as he was in a sultan or a Pope? Francis would be the first to tell us, not Francis but Christ in Francis. And because it was never merely a beggar or a Pope who stood before him, but Christ in a beggar, Christ in a Pope.

C.S. Lewis, in his essay 'The Weight of Glory' describes the very reality that Francis must have perceived:

'There are no ordinary people...Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbour he is holy





Newsletter- February 2026

in almost the same way, for in him also Christ verelatitat—the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden.'

We don't have to look farther than those we live with.

Christ asked the blind beggar Bartimaeus 'What do you want me to do for you? Bartimaeus answered: 'Lord, that I may see.' (Mk 10:51)

Lord, that we may see.

Fr Francesco.



ANNOUNCEMENTS (1/5)

February 7 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.

Jubilee Year:

On January 10th, Pope Leo announced a Franciscan year of grace for 2026 in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the saint's dies natalis. With this Jubilee comes an opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

To obtain the plenary indulgence during the Year of Saint Francis, certain specific conditions indicated by the Church must be fulfilled: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, to recite the Our Father and the Creed, interior detachment from sin, and either to visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventional church or place of worship dedicated to St Francis anywhere in the world or to participate in any of the 800th anniversary commemorative celebrations..



ANNOUNCEMENTS (2/5)

✓ **Come and See:**

We are hosting a 'Come and See' visit for men who are discerning a vocation with our Community. Please keep these men in prayer during their visit (Feb 4 - 9) and all of the men that the Lord is calling to join our Community. Thank **you!**

✓ **Parish Mission:**

The friars will be leading a parish mission at St Paul's in Wood Green (22 Bradley Rd, London N22 7SZ) during the first week of Lent (Feb 21-26). Please keep the mission in prayer and feel free to join us for any part of the mission. The evening sessions begin at 7pm from Monday, Feb 23 through Thursday, Feb 26.

✓ **Helper's of God's Precious Infants:**

The next Processional Prayer Vigil will begin with Mass at St Charles Borromeo Church, 8 Ogle Street, W1W 6HS ON Saturday, February 14. 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, February 8, 2026. Please contact him at the friary for further info: 02074740766.



ANNOUNCEMENTS (3/5)



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.

✓ **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



ANNOUNCEMENTS (4/5)

✓ 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 (5/5)

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!

March Discipleship Day:

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



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
of the RENEWAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS (4/4)

Discipleship Day
7th February

Of those who
wish to adopt
this life

Talk by Br Paul

"If you wish to be perfect...
Come follow Me."
Mt. 19:21

All are welcome!

Start at 11.30am

Franciscan Friary,

St Fidelis Friary, Killip Cl, London E16 1LX