



Newsletter- April 2026

Dear friends and fellow disciples,

A priest once told me that human desire burns through everything. In other words, once we get something we want, a new want emerges, and on and on it goes. However, just because something is desirable, this does not make it truly good. There is a difference between a genuine good and an only apparent good.

Human desire also needs direction; it needs proper aim. There is such a thing as wanting the right thing. There is such a thing as wanting the best thing. So if we were to give our desire some direction, what might we aim at? What is most worthy of human desire? In Chapter X of his Rule, St Francis answers the question by reminding the brothers:

'Let them pay attention to what they must desire above all else: to have the Spirit of the Lord and Its holy activity.'

Recently, Fr Michael and I travelled to Vienna for the Encounter Conference. If there was one thing that was clearly desired, it was more of the Spirit of the Lord and His holy activity. The invocation 'Come Holy Spirit' (mainly in German!) must have been prayed thousands of times. And the reminder that 'there is 'more' of the Spirit of the Lord and more that He wants to do for us, in us and through us, was constant.

And what did we experience?

The Holy Spirit came! Why? Because He was wanted. He was desired. He was sought after. The Holy Spirit came in power and in love with charisms that included prophecy, healing and deliverance, powerful teaching and preaching, and joyful service and





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mercy. And not only was the charismatic action of the Spirit experienced, there was evidence of the sanctifying action of the Spirit as the fruits of love, joy, peace, goodness and kindness poured forth in the words, actions and faces of individual people.

'There is more!' was a constant refrain at the Encounter Conference. But do we want more? Do I? Do you? Do we desire that which St Francis tells us we must want over and above everything else? Do we desire the Spirit of the Lord and his holy activity in our lives?

With the Spirit of the Lord moving in power and love at the Encounter Conference, those present could not help but 'taste and see that the Lord is good!' And once we taste and see that the Lord is good, the Holy Spirit is not simply that which we must desire but He becomes the One Whom we truly do desire, above all else.

So let us direct (and redirect when necessary) our desire in the best way possible by asking the One who longs to give the good Gift:

'If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' (Luke 11:13) Father, please give us the Spirit and His holy activity. Release Your Gift in our hearts and minds and bodies. Make us saints, in Jesus name, Amen.

Fr Francesco.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (1/6)

April 3 Good Friday Schedule

12 noon: Arrive at the Friary

12:30pm: Begin the Way of the Cross (through the streets)

2:30 pm: Arrive at St Margaret's Convent Chapel

3pm: Good Friday Service

✓ **Friary Work Project Week:**

The friars will be working on various projects in and around the friary from Monday, April 20 through Thursday, April 23. Please contact Br Paul at the friary if you are interested in helping out: 0207-474-0766

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

The next Processional Prayer Vigil will begin with Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 6 Knowle Close, Brixton Road, Brixton, SW90TQ, on Saturday, March 21. For further information: Helpers of God's Precious Infants: marg@helpersuk.org or 01727763832.

✓ **Always Forward Men's Fellowship:**

The next men's fellowship event will take place on Sunday, April 26. Please contact Fr Emmanuel at the friary for further info: 02074740766.

✓ **Young missionaries looking for host homes:**

May 2nd-May 5th (4 nights): Recently we hosted the young people from NET Scotland for Holy Hour and dinner. They will be back again doing some missions in the London area in May. Gwen who works for NET has asked us if we know of anyone who might be able to host some of the team from May 2nd - May 5th. There are 10 team members; four men and six women. They are happy to sleep on the floor etc! If you think you might be able to help, please contact Gwen Fawcett-Wood at gwenfawcettwood@netscotland.org or 07493 186284.





ANNOUNCEMENTS (2/6)

✓ **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 conventual 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 (3/6)

✓ 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 (4/6)

✓ 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 (5/6)

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!

✓ May Discipleship Day:

The Discipleship Day in May will be on Saturday, the 2nd. Please join us!



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
of the RENEWAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS (6/6)

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 3 April

Franciscan Friars of Renewal

Beginning at the St Fidelis Friary
at 12:30pm
(arrive at Friary between 12pm and 12:30pm)

End at 2:30pm at St Margaret's Convent Chapel
Bethell Avenue
E16 4JU

We will walk the streets of Canning Town
carrying a life-size Cross
and then join in the celebration of the Good
Friday liturgy at 3pm at St Margaret's Convent
Chapel

FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE RENEWAL