



Newsletter- July 2026

Dear friends and fellow disciples,

This month we will say farewell to three of our friars – Fr Michael, Fr Bernard and Br Paul. Sometimes the question is asked ‘Why do the friars have to move around so often?’ There are a number of ways to answer that question but perhaps the most concise is this: ‘Because we are not yet home.’

The friars’ life of ‘itinerancy’ points to the reality that, for Christians, our life on this earth is one of pilgrimage towards our ultimate homeland, the heavenly Kingdom. And this pilgrimage is one in which we follow the way marked out for us by God, in contrast to setting our own path and itinerary.

This makes obedience an essential virtue for every Christian, not just for those who profess the vow of obedience in religious life. Our brothers are moving to new friaries, faithful to their vow of obedience - to do what Jesus tells them (Jn 2:5) and follow where He leads. But again, obedience is not reserved for friars only, neither is it limited to the pivotal moments of change in our lives such as moving to a new friary.

Every day presents us with new opportunities to say Yes or No to God’s will. How do we recognize these opportunities? One way is simply attending to our daily duties. Peter Kreeft offers the following commentary on obedience in the context of Frodo’s task in Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*:

‘We all, like Frodo, carry a Quest, a Task: our daily duties. They come to us, not from us. We are free to accept or refuse our task – and implicitly, our Taskmaster. None of us is a free creator or designer of his own life. ‘None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.’ (Rom 14:7)...We are all Hobbits who love our Shire, our security, our creature comforts, whether these are pipe weed, mushrooms, five meals a day, and local gossip, or Starbucks coffees, recreational sex, and politics. But something, some authority not named in *The Lord of the Rings*, has decreed that a Quest should interrupt this delightful Epicurean garden and send us on an odyssey.





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We are plucked out of our Hobbit holes and plunked down onto a Road. That gives us a fundamental choice between obedience and disobedience. And if life is war, obedience is essential. It is the first virtue of every soldier.'

Obedience is essential because life is war and we are soldiers – the King's soldiers. So what is your Quest and Task today? What are your daily duties? This is one battleground on which we must 'fight the good fight of faith' (1 Tim 6:12).

Please pray for the friars making transitions in the coming months. And let us also pray for each other; for the courage to accept as good soldiers the duties that the King has set before us.

Your brother in Jesus and Francis,

Fr Francesco.

July 4 Discipleship Day Schedule

11:30am: Holy Mass

(please note that we are unable to provide parking at the friary this month because the friary compound will be used for the Barbecue!)

Barbecue

4:30 pm: Clean-up/ Departure

BARBEQUE!

BRING SOME/SHARE SOME!!

PLEASE BRING ALONG MEATS TO BARBEQUE, YOUR FAVOURITE HOMEMADE DISH, SALADS TO SHARE, DESSERTS TO DELIGHT IN, SNACKS TO ENJOY AND DRINKS TO KEEP US HYDRATED ETC





ANNOUNCEMENTS (3/9)



No Parking in July! Please note that we are unable to provide parking at the friary this month because the friary compound will be used for the barbecue!

✓ Come say Goodbye to Fr Michael and Fr Bernard:

As many of you now know, Fr Michael and Fr Bernard will be moving from St Fidelis Friary summer. You are all welcome to join us for the July 4 Mass and BBQ at the Friary to celebrate them both and have the chance to say 'Goodbye' or if you prefer, 'See you later'. Please join us.



Br Paul's Final Vows and move to Bradford:

As you may have heard already, Br Paul will be returning to the US for the month of July in order to prepare for his Final Profession of Vows. This is a huge gift and great joy for our community. Please pray for him. He will return to the UK after making his vows and is assigned to St Pio Friary in Bradford. Please see the invitation to his final vows above.

New Local Servant and Regional Servant:

With Fr Michael moving back to the US, Fr Francesco will assume the role of Regional Servant. Fr Charles will take his place as Local Servant of St Fidelis Friary. Please pray for them both as they make these transitions. Thank you!

New Friars:

With the departures of some of the friars from London, St Fidelis Friary is blessed to be receiving two new friars - Br John Bosco and Br Benedict Mary. Br John Bosco has lived here before and Br Benedict is a younger friar in temporary vows from the US. They will be touching down in London during the summer months and you will see them at the September Discipleship Day, if you do not see them before then. Please pray for their transitions also. Thank you!

Fr Tansi's New Album: Please see the above poster to help support the production of Fr Tansi's new album!





ANNOUNCEMENTS (4/9)

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

The next Processional Prayer Vigil will begin with Mass at 10am at St Mellitus, Tollington Park, London, N4 3AG, on Saturday, July 11. For further information: Helpers of God's Precious Infants: marg@helpersuk.org or 01727763832.

We Believe Festival:

Fr Charles, Fr Bernard and Fr Emmanuel as well as some of the friars from St Pio Friary in Bradford will be attending the second We Believe Festival of Catholic Life with over 100 contributors in 14 venues. It is taking place at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham from 24th-27th July, 2026.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorie with Fr Juniper: (now living at St Pio Friary in Bradford) will be leading a pilgrimage to Medjugorie from August 19-26. Places are limited so if you are interested, please contact Fr Juniper via email: juniper.adams@franciscanfriars.com or phone: 01274721989.

✓ **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 (5/9)

✓ 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) | > Boxer shorts/ underwear |
| > 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 (6/9)

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CFR Europe Website:

Please visit our website if you would like to keep in touch with us:

<https://www.franciscanfriars.co.uk/>

✓ **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/>).

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 (7/9)

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!

Next Discipleship Day:

As usual, there will not be a Discipleship Day in August. Due to the March for Life, which will take place on September 5, the Discipleship Day in September will not be on September 5, but on **September 12.**

Please join us!



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
of the RENEWAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS (8/9)

Discipleship Day **4th July**

Bring Some/Share Some!

**Please bring along meats to barbeque,
your favourite homemade dish,
salads to share,
desserts to delight in,
snacks to enjoy**

and drinks to keep us hydrated!

All are welcome!

Start at 11.30am with Mass

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



FRANCISCAN FRIARS
of the RENEWAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9/9)

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Fr. Tansi

Help support the production of
Fr. Tansi's next album

All proceeds from the new album will support
our soup kitchen at St. Pio Friary, Bradford



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Visit
franciscanfriars.co.uk



Make a donation to the
St. Pio Friary account (Bradford)



Mark your donation:
"Fr. Tansi Album"

Listen to Fr. Tansi's music at
franciscanfriars.com/frtansi

*Through music I hope to bring Christ's light, hope,
and joy to hearts, and to serve the poor through our
mission.*

Thank you for your prayers and support!