

Newsletter- November 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

May the Lord give you His peace!

It's already November! The autumn has arrived with the changing (and falling) leaves, the wind and rain, and the shorter days! It is nice to sip on a hot cup of tea by the fireplace after a nice stroll in the wood plowing our feet through dead leaves.
During this time, we also have the last few weeks of the liturgical year! The readings and prayers at mass and in the liturgy of the hour will focus on the end time, encouraging us to persevere on our pilgrimage, keeping our gaze on our destination! Spiritually, besides the craziness of Halloween, it is a beautiful time to remind ourselves of Purgatory and the holy souls! There is a lot of either confusion or ignorance about Purgatory! For our protestant brothers and sisters, it is unacceptable! And even among Catholics, it is a source of confusion... For some it is a downgraded hell where we suffer punishment with the only consolation being that we are on our way to Heaven! For others, it is the waiting room to Paradise... but not sure about what we are waiting for there! Is it to be afraid of, to be avoided at all cost or a place to look forward to?

To understand the catholic prospective on purgatory, we need to consider that there are two sets of consequences for each of our actions and words (or lack of!). First, there is the Eternal consequence. The eternal impact my act of the will has on my relationship with the Father. The second is the temporal consequence on my environment, my relationships with my neighbor and with myself. Jesus reconciled us to the Father through His self-offering on the cross. He dealt with the Eternal consequences of our sins that separated us from God. However, we still need to fix the temporal consequences! To illustrate this, let me use an analogy. Imagine you are playing ball in the street and the ball goes through the neighbor's window... the first thing to do is to ring the doorbell and ask for forgiveness. That is dealing with the eternal consequence of the fault. The neighbor in his mercy accepts your apologies and forgive you! The window, however, is still broken! That is the temporal consequence! Because He respects our dignity, God, in His mercy, invites us to participate in the reparations of the window. It helps us realize what we have done!



When we die, we come to discover the full truth of our life… the consequences and effects of all our actions, words, efforts and lack of actions, words or efforts… If we reject the gift of salvation, being reconciled with God, that truth will crush us and torture us eternally with self-hatred or pride and envy. When we receive the gift of salvation, this knowledge provokes in us a surge of gratitude for all the fruits we bore, and of compassion that gives a loving desire to make amend and do reparation for the hurts we caused. So the pain endured in Purgatory is life giving! It perfects what was imperfect in our way of loving God, neighbor and self through our suffering with those we hurt and offering that suffering in reparation. It is the most powerful intercession. Therefore, when we forgive our beloved departed, we shorten their time in purgatory! How? Why? Well… when we forgive, we declare that we do not want to suffer from what the person did to hurt us, by surrendering the person to God's justice. So, if we stop suffering… there is no more need for compassion, but for thanksgiving!

This reality is beautiful! It shows that, as part of a large family, we depend on each other! The holy souls in Purgatory cannot change the number of windows they broke… they cannot pray for themselves, but they can fix their windows by interceding for us and we can help them by asking their intercessions! And they are powerful! I discovered that as a young priest. During my first year of priesthood, a woman came to the friary to ask for advice. Her mom had been in a coma for the past few months without any changes… no improvement and no deterioration. The only treatment she received was food through a feeding tube and water through the drip. The doctors just advised that it was time to "unplug". The woman understood that it was not appropriate to do so, since it was not an extraordinary treatment and it would be killing by starvation. She asked me what to do because her dad and siblings expressed their desire to follow the doctor's advice. Interiorly I thought: "I don't know! I do not even know your family, how to talk to them… but the Holy Spirit inspired me to invite her to intercede for and ask the intercession of holy souls of doctors who were in purgatory for that very reason: they had given this kind of advice. She asked me to celebrate a mass to that intention and left. Ten days later, she came back. Her face was peaceful with a beautiful smile. However, the first thing she said was: "I just buried my mother"! Her words and her face did not match! I asked her to explain, and here is what I heard from her; the day after her visit, her mother, totally unexpectedly, came out of the coma. Was able to say goodbye and died peacefully and naturally few days later!



We are part of a much larger, greater family we could imagine! We ought to rely on each other in order to reinforce the unity of the Church, militant, suffering and glorious, by the bound of love, interceding for the holy souls and asking for their intercession!
Holy souls in purgatory, pray for us!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr Charles-Benoit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (1/5)

November 7 Discipleship Day Schedule
11:30am: Rosary & Holy Mass
1:30 pm: Lunch
2:30 pm: Presentation by Fr Emmanuel on The Way of St Francis, The Mission to the world
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. We will have a team of "disciples" to prepare/ arrange the lunch while others are involved in ministry. This should allow for a more leisurely and fraternal gathering for our midday meal.

✔ **Intercession:**
In front of the altar there will be a basket in which you will be able to put the names of your beloved friends and family members who passed away.

✔ ***Friar Benet's Kitchen:***

- We are open 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 Emmanuel** on **0207 474 0766** or send an email at **fbk.cfr.london@gmail.com**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2/5)

✔ **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 (for men only)

> Jumpers/Hoodies (Size: S/M/L/XL)
> Joggers/Tracksuits bottoms (S,M,L,XL)
> Tee-shirts (Size: S/M/L/XL)
> Jeans (Size: 28 to 36)
> Jackets / Fleece Jackets (Size: S/M/L/XL)
> Socks

OTHERS

> Toiletries (shower gel, deodorant, razor)

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.

✔ **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:**

If you travel by car, you may park within the friary compound, however, space is limited, it will be on a first come-first served basis!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (3/5)

✔ **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:***

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May God greatly reward you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (4/5)



ANNOUNCEMENTS (5/5)

