

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

NEWSLETTER



**Br. Piotr (Parish Priest and Guardian)- Br. Jim - Br. Francis –
Br. Loarne – Br. Anoop**
www.stfrancischester.co.uk

TIMES OF MASS

VIGIL MASS
SATURDAY 6.30 pm

SUNDAY
8.00 am
(at The Benedictine Abbey)
9.30 am
(Church)

MASS IN POLISH
12 Noon & 4.30 pm

WEEKDAYS
Every day 12 noon

**Tuesday, Thursday and
Saturday 8.00am**

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday and Saturday
11.00 am – 12 noon
and Saturday
6.00pm – 6.30pm

ADORATION
Friday and Saturday
11.00 am – 12 noon

Franciscan Friary
15 Cuppin Street,
Chester CH1 2BN
Tel: 01244 351331

Email:
stfrancis.chester@gmail.com

Parish Priest
Br. Piotr Anusiewicz OFM Cap

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 27TH APRIL 2025

**Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 117;
Apocalypse 1:9-13.17-19; John 20:19-31**

**Summary of Bishop Mark's Pastoral Letter: "On the
Death of Pope Francis – 'Please, pray for me'"**

On Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Mark invites us to commend the soul of Pope Francis to God's mercy, recalling the Pope's frequent and heartfelt request: *"Please, pray for me."* Bishop Mark reminds us that it is an act of charity to pray for the departed, and today especially for the one who led the Church for twelve years.

The Bishop reflects on significant moments of Pope Francis' pontificate: the Year of Mercy in 2015, the solitary blessing of the world during the 2020 pandemic, and his final call for renewed devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He also recalls Pope Francis' devotion to Our Lady, symbolized by his mortal remains being laid to rest in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome.

Bishop Mark highlights the Pope's canonization of St. John Henry Newman, who taught about the unbroken continuity of the Church and the office of St. Peter through the Bishop of Rome.

As Pope Francis, the 265th successor of Peter, is laid to rest, Bishop Mark urges prayers for the Cardinals who will elect a new Pope. This process, far from political drama, is a solemn act of prayer and responsibility before God. Reflecting on the extraordinary Popes chosen in our lifetimes, the Bishop emphasizes that each was aware of his human frailty and in need of the faithful's prayers.

Bishop Mark concludes by encouraging all to pray for the next Pope, that he may confirm the Church in faith and shepherd God's people with wisdom and love.

Stay Updated with Our Parish News!

If you would like to stay informed about current parish matters and receive our newsletter directly on your phone, join our parish WhatsApp group by scanning the QR code.



Thanksgiving for Easter

I would like to sincerely thank all those who generously gave their time and talents to prepare the liturgy and decorate the church for the Easter celebrations. Your dedication, creativity, and hard work have helped make our liturgies truly beautiful and meaningful.

A special thank you to:

- all the readers who proclaimed the Word of God with devotion,
- our organists and choirs for enriching our celebrations with beautiful music and singing,
- those who decorated the church with flowers and created a joyful, prayerful atmosphere,
- those who helped with cleaning and preparing the church for the Holy Week and Easter services,
- all the ministers who served at the altar and behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly.

Your service is a wonderful witness of faith and love for our parish community. May the Risen Christ bless you abundantly for all you have done!

Invitation to a Special Franciscan Gathering Sunday, 4th May – 2:15 PM – Parish Hall

As part of our **150th anniversary celebrations**, the **Chester fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order** will hold its **monthly meeting** on **Sunday, 4th May at 2:15 PM** in the parish hall.

Everyone is warmly invited!

During the meeting, we will watch a short video titled:

"Why are there so many different Franciscans?"

If you are curious about the Franciscan life or simply wish to learn more, this is a wonderful opportunity to discover and share in the Franciscan spirit.

Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Invitation to the Hour of Mercy Divine Mercy Sunday – 27th April

You are warmly invited to join us for the Hour of Mercy on Sunday, 27th April, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at St. Francis' Church.

We will gather for:

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Reflection on God's Mercy
- Opportunity for Confession

Jesus revealed to St. Faustina that during this hour, the floodgates of Divine Mercy are opened wide. He promised:

"In this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (Diary, 1320)

It is a privileged time to ask for graces for ourselves, for our loved ones, and for the whole world.

Let us come together to entrust ourselves to the infinite mercy of God, who desires to pour His love into every heart. All are warmly welcome

Celebrating 150 Years of St. Francis Church May 2nd – May 4th, 2025

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the **150th Anniversary of St. Francis Church** — a joyful occasion to give thanks for the blessings of the past and to look forward with hope.

This special milestone will be marked with a rich programme of **prayer, reflection, history, and community celebration**.

Programme of Events

Friday, May 2nd

- 5:30 PM – Confessions & Adoration
- 6:30 PM – Polish Mass
- 7:30 PM – Social Gathering in the Parish Hall

Saturday, May 3rd

- 10:00 AM – Historical Exhibition & Organ Recital
- 12:00 PM – Mass with Former Parish Priests
- 3:00 PM – Guided Tour of Franciscan Sites in Chester & Historical Lecture
- 5:00 PM – Praise & Worship Session with Testimonies
- 6:30 PM – Solemn Anniversary Mass
- 7:30 PM – Formal Anniversary Meal (*by invitation*)

Sunday, May 4th

- 9:30 AM – Mass with Guest Preacher
- 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Special Children's Anniversary Programme
- 12:00 PM & 4:30 PM – Polish Community Masses

Support Our Parish

As we prepare for this meaningful celebration, we also ask for your support through **donations**. Your generosity will help us mark this anniversary in a fitting way and preserve the legacy of our church for future generations.

You can donate:

- In person at the church
- Using the card terminal
- Online via our parish website directly through this link:

<https://donate.mydona.com/capuchin-friars-gb-chester>

Every contribution, big or small, truly makes a difference. Thank you for your kindness, and may God bless you!

Gift Aid Envelopes 2025/2026 & Contactless Donations

Gift Aid Envelopes for the coming year are available at the back of the church. Please collect your box after Mass. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme and receive a box of weekly envelopes, a form is available from the Parish Priest. Simply complete and return it after Mass.

If your circumstances have changed (e.g., you are no longer a taxpayer or have a new address), please inform the Parish Priest so we can update our records. Remember, for every £1 donated by a taxpayer, the Parish can claim an extra 25p from HMRC (25% extra) at no cost to you.

We are also pleased to introduce a **Contactless Card Donation Terminal** near the entrance for quick and easy donations. This electronic Gift Aid method is much simpler for us to manage.

How it works:

1. **Choose an amount** – Use the touchscreen to select or enter your donation.
2. **Tap your card** – Hold your contactless card, phone, or smartwatch over the reader.
3. **Gift Aid option** – If you're a UK taxpayer, enable Gift Aid by entering your details. This lets us claim 25% extra at no cost to you.
4. **Faster future donations** – Once registered, the terminal remembers your details, so next time, just tap and donate!

Your generosity supports our parish and its mission. A portable terminal will be introduced soon for even more convenience. **Thank you for your support!**



Please let us remember our sick
Parishioners in our prayers:

Terry Halpin, Barbara Edwards, Kevin Roberts,
Margaret Davis, Hilary Linty, Patrick Hannah,
Elle Mae Dunne, Elaine Bruce, Christopher Browne,
Gill Wright, Emma Noble, Colette Lazenby,
Rita James, Sheila McCoy, Peter Mooney and Andrea Burns

MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil Mass

Saturday 26th April 6.30 pm (Church): Parishioners

Sunday 27th April 8.00 am (Curzon Park Abbey): Sisters' intention
9.30 am (Church): Pope Francis RIP

Polish Mass: 12.00 noon (Church): Magdalena's intention
4.30 pm (Church) Amelia

Monday 28th April **ST. GEORGE (PATRON OF ENGLAND)**
8.00am (Curzon Park Abbey) Intention of donor
12.00 noon (Church): Pope Francis RIP

Tuesday 29th April **ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA (PATRON FOR EUROPE)**
DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EUROPE
8.00am (The Brothers' Choir) Br. Loarne's intention
12.00 noon (Church) Ann Finch and Family

Wednesday 30th April **ST PIUS (POPE)**
8.00am (Curzon Park Abbey): Nesta Bileckyi RIP
12.00 noon (Church) Conor Finch RIP

Thursday 1st May **ST JOSEPH THE WORKER**
DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR HUMAN WORK
8.00am (The Brothers' Choir): Friars and Benefactors
12.00 noon (Church): Mary McCabe RIP

Friday 2nd May **ST. ATHANASIUS (BISHOP)**
8.00am (Curzon Park Abbey): Patsie Bileckyi RIP
12.00 noon (Church): Holy Souls
6:30pm (Mass in Polish) Thanksgiving intention for the 150th anniversary of St. Francis' Church in Chester and for the Polish community."

Saturday 3rd May **Ss. PHILIP AND JAMES (APOSTLES)**
8.00am (The Brothers' Choir): No Mass
12.00 noon (Church) Thanksgiving intention for the 150th
anniversary of St. Francis' Church in Chester and for all the former parish priests



Prayers are requested for Anniversaries
which occur this week. May they rest in peace

27.4 Irene Hughes (1996)

28.4 Leslie Badrock (2004)

29.4 Eric Dobson (2004) – Lillian Dutton (2003)

30.4 Ann Frawley (1998) – James William Humphreys (1980)