

## Franciscan of the Week: St Francis Fasani

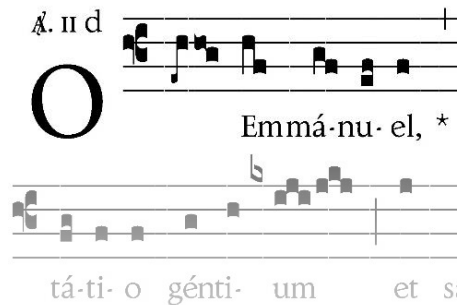
Born in 1681 in southern Italy, Francis followed in the footsteps of his namesake, becoming a Friar when just 15 years old. He was ordained priest, he devoted his life to prayer and study, but also to service of the poor. Canonised in 1986, he is remembered as a great mystic and as a man of unflinching charity for those in need.



## FOCUS ON... the great 'O' Antiphons

Between 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December (so, starting tomorrow) the Church sings at Evening Prayer seven antiphons which lead us to the celebration of Our Lord's birth. These ancient texts, which all begin with 'O' (hence their name!), give us seven titles of Christ, revealing who is coming:

- 17 Dec O Sapientia (Wisdom)
- 18 Dec O Adonai (Lord)
- 19 Dec O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)
- 20 Dec O Clavis David (Key of David)
- 21 Dec O Oriens (Rising Sun)
- 22 Dec O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations)
- 23 Dec O Emmanuel (Emmanuel – God with us)



As we use these prayers each day, our expectation of the Saviour is increased. Next Sunday at Vespers (4:30pm) the final antiphon will be sung (in its original plainchant). Why not come and pray this beautiful prayer? Put together in reverse order, the seven antiphons form an acrostic: *Ero cras*, the Latin signifying 'Tomorrow, I will be here'. The Saviour's coming is thus announced. The antiphons are also the inspiration for the great Advent hymn, 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'.

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## MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 87

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year C; Weekdays: Week 3 of Advent, Year 1

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	6pm (vigil)	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Damian Kehoe RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9:30am		John Grace RIP
	6pm		Balasamy and Jacob RIP
Monday	9:15am		Ashu Gurung RIP
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Rodger & Mary Furey RIP
Wednesday	<b>12noon</b>	<b>Requiem</b>	Frank Machin RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Sp Int: Mary Gormley
Friday	12noon		Rose Metcalf RIP
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec.	10am	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Molly & Harry Ward RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Ken Penswick RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec.	9:30am		Fr John Donlan RIP
	6pm	Thanksgiving for recovery	

**LATELY DEAD:** Please remember in your prayers **Frank Machin**, whose Requiem will take place here this Wednesday at 12noon, **Ken Penswick**, **Martin Brown** and all who have died recently.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7am-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

Sundays 4-5pm during Advent, including sung Vespers and Benediction at 4:30pm.

**MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** Monday-Friday at 7:45am during Advent.

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

**ROSARY:** Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass. Mondays: Joyful; Wednesdays: Glorious; Thursdays: Luminous; Fridays: Sorrowful mysteries.

**ST ANTHONY:** December wall box donations go to the crib appeal.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr John Donlan, Catherine Livesey, Edward Riley, Thomas Lowe, Teresa Melling, Samuel Teehan, Rose Metcalf, Jim Donnelly, Catherine Walker.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:** That people, who are involved in service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**HOME CRIB BLESSINGS:** This Tuesday at 7:30pm, bring your home crib to be blessed. This is an annual event – each year we ask God’s blessing on our cribs, so that the birth of Jesus may truly be at the heart of our Christmas celebrations. The blessing takes place in the parish hall after evening Mass, and is followed by some mince pies and a glass of wine or cup of tea.

**WEDNESDAY MASS** will be celebrated this week at 12noon, a Requiem for Frank Machin. There will be no 9:15am Mass on Wednesday this week.

**ADVENT:** A beautiful season of preparation for the Lord. Holy Hour each Sunday afternoon 4-5pm, and Morning Prayer Monday-Friday at 7:45am. Make some extra time of prayer this Advent to prepare spiritually for the Lord’s coming.

**RECONCILIATION:** Don’t forget to include confession as part of your spiritual preparation this Advent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays, 11am-12noon, or by arrangement with Fr Andrew.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** See back page, poster in narthex or visit our website.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Donations are welcome for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas. If your donation is in memory of someone, please write their name on the envelope. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed over Christmas.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for Christmas Masses. Readers’ rotas for Christmas are prepared and will be sent out shortly.

**CTS BOOK CLUB:** Next meeting on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The booklet will be *Lectio Divina* by Jean Khoury. Copies available soon.

**STATIONS OF THE CRIB:** An opportunity to journey with Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus through reflections, prayers and carols. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:** 2019 edition available in the narthex, priced £3.50. Please put money in the wall box marked ‘CTS, books etc’.

**THANK YOU** to Cathy and the members of the Pilates group, who raised just over £2,500 for parish funds in 2018. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**‘PORTIUNCULA’ PARISH MAGAZINE:** Free copies available in the narthex and hall. Maybe give one to a friend or neighbour to invite them to come to Mass with you.

**ASSISI PILGRIMAGE:** We still have a small number of places available for this pilgrimage (27<sup>th</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June 2019). Twin/double rooms only. Speak to Fr Andrew.

**IMAGINING THE NATIVITY:** Beautiful audio reflections on the nativity, produced by Jesuit Ministries. Free download: [www.pathwaystogod.org/imagining-nativity](http://www.pathwaystogod.org/imagining-nativity)

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS:** ‘The true spirit of Christmas giving’ brochures in the narthex.

**LAST SUNDAY:** At Mass: 478; Collection: £884.82; Poor Missions: £433.31

## Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	4pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Church
	4:30pm	<b>Sung Vespers and Benediction</b>	Church
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	<b>Blessing of Home Cribs</b>	Parish Hall
Wednesday	8pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Sunday	4pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Church
	4:30pm	<b>Sung Vespers and Benediction</b>	Church

## Christmas Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Christmas Eve at 6pm

Midnight Mass, preceded by readings and carols from 11:30pm

10am on Christmas Morning

Please be aware that the vigil Mass is likely to be very busy. Why not consider coming to celebrate at Midnight or on Christmas morning? As Bishop Paul reminded us last week, let's make Mass the centre of our Christmas celebrations.

During the Christmas Octave (the days between Christmas Day and New Year) the weekday Mass will be celebrated each day at 10am. On New Year's Day Mass will be celebrated at 12noon.

## Advance Diary Dates

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December: Altar servers' Mass for St Stephen's Day, 10am

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December: Feast of the Holy Family – Sunday Masses as usual

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Mass at 12noon

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January: First Friday Holy Hour, 7pm

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January: Solemnity of the Epiphany – blessing of chalk

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January: Talk by Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January: Whole school Mass, 9:15am

## Further afield...

**HEALTH AND SALVATION RETREAT/HOLIDAY** for healthcare professionals. At Boarbank Hall (near Grange-over-Sands), 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Workshops, prayer, free time and social events, with a range of acclaimed speakers. For more details, or to book, email Sr Margaret Atkins ([margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk)) or call 015395 32288.