



# St Pio Friary

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

## Highlights

- \* **Fr Columba Jordan has just arrived on his new assignment to St Pio Friary.**
- \* **Through the support of many, we have been able to serve 500 lunches per week.**
- \* **Advent Mission Dec 14th—17th**

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## “We need patience and perseverance.”

“He who endures to the end will be saved; and ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ ‘The hope of truth and of freedom is already ours, dearly beloved, but if we are to attain truth and freedom in reality we must endure and persevere. The very fact that we are Christians is the substance of faith and hope. But in order that faith and hope may attain their full fruit, there is need of patience.’” (St Cyprian, *On the Advantage of Patience*)

This year has been filled with disappointments and trials, anxieties and losses for many. A reminder of who we are and an invitation to patience is good medicine.

The reality of our baptism is something that defines us: “See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called God’s children, yet that is what we are!” Baptism brings us into the life of Jesus. We have become one body in Him and if

death no longer has the last word over Jesus’ body, neither does it have the last word over ours! But St Cyprian reminds us that we need to be patient and to persevere because there will be many things within us and around us that will try to undermine our identity and destiny.

We need patience and perseverance that trials and difficulties do not become occasion for us to act selfishly like slaves, forgetting who we are. As Pope Francis shares in his new book, trials are occasions where our hearts are exposed. In those moments we have a choice. Let us choose according to our identity and our destiny. This requires patience and perseverance. “Waiting and patience are necessary if we are to fulfil what we have begun to be, and to receive through God’s unfailing help, what we hope for and believe.”

We must not give up doing good, loving one another with patience, knowing that we are laying

up treasure in heaven. We are made for heaven, not for this earth. Choosing to love now is choosing to live for heaven to come.

If in the end we will be judged on love, we need all the help we can get! The sacrament of reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist are essential helps along the way. We cannot love without the love of Christ in the sacraments to heal and strengthen us.

Advent is a time of waiting. As we contemplate the Child in the crib our waiting is transformed into expectation. He has come, and He will come again. He dwells within us, therefore, we can bear with one another, to be patient, to believe, to hope, and to endure all things.

*Fr. Gabriel, CFR*



## Covid-Creative

Merry Christmas everyone and a blessed new year! What a year it has been! Who would have thought that the inaugural year of St Patrick's Mission would be in the context of a pandemic? It has been a time of trial and anxiety but also a time in which we have seen the Lord moving in beautiful ways.

When the pandemic began, the friars made a decision to be available

to serve for as long as we were able. We began to ask the Lord to help us be creative in our evangelization and our work with the poor. In the subsequent weeks our numbers coming for food tripled. We were able to adapt to a take-away style service providing up to 500 food parcels per week.

Our on-line holy hours and retreats were a blessing to many, but

nothing compared to welcoming people back to the Church. When the restrictions were lifted many expressed their gratitude in being able to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist again and to receive his mercy in confession. Before the recent closure, as many as 40 people were coming again to adoration and holy mass.

“In the subsequent weeks our numbers coming for food tripled.”



Br Francois, Br Pier-Giorgio, and Fr Gabriel Serving during the pandemic with our team of volunteers.

The friars make a Holy Hour before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament each day. A powerful way to give of ourselves in every season.





**Blessing from the rooftop.**  
Br Francois assists while Fr Gabriel blesses the city from the roof of the friary.

## Hellos and Goodbyes

Last year we mentioned the arrival of new friars to our fraternity. This year we are happy to say the same!

Fr Columba Jordan, a native of Dublin, arrived in Bradford at the end of November. He will be with us indefinitely. We've welcomed Fr Augustine, from Preston and

Fr Emmanuel from London as visitors.

After many years of prayer and generous service, Br Pier Giorgio, one of our friars in temporary vows, discerned not to renew his vows this year. We wish him every blessing in the Lord as he begins the next part of his journey.

Fr Giles Barrie has been reassigned to one of our friaries in New York. We are incredibly grateful to him for his generous service to the poor and for his leadership as rector of St Patrick's.

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**"It is a joy to live our Franciscan vocation in these days; the Lord is at work, preparing us and renewing us for himself."**

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**St Patrick's Mission has been a refuge and a spiritual harbour for many this year.**

**Fr John Paul, our General Servant was with us last year for one of our Discipleship Days.**





St Pio Friary  
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

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The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal were founded in the Archdiocese of New York in 1987. Their purpose is to participate in Christ's renewal of all things by a life of prayer and fraternity, of hands-on work with the materially poor and destitute, and by works of evangelization that complement those whose mission is to serve parochially.

They came to the Diocese of Leeds to begin a foundation in Bradford in 2005. Their friary is based at St Patrick's Mission, an inner city outreach centre serving the poor and destitute and proclaiming the Gospel through various evangelical initiatives. Their soup kitchen is open Mon, Tues, and Thurs from 11am-2pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession are available Mon-Sat from 11am-12pm. Mass is offered Mon-Sat at 12:15pm.

Advent Mission Dec 14-17, 2020

Hosted in St Patrick's Mission Church and livestreamed on Facebook/St Pio Friary

### Bank Details

Franciscan Friars of  
the Renewal, St Pio  
Friary  
HSBC, Leeds Branch  
Sort Code 402715  
Account no. 53991679

As friars we rely on divine providence for all our needs. A generous benefactor has come forward offering a match-funding gift of £4,000.00. A donation towards this goal will be greatly appreciated. You can make a donation towards this campaign here [www.justgiving.com/stpiofriary](http://www.justgiving.com/stpiofriary).

We are currently praying to St Joseph for a "new" car. For us, "new" means "safe". If you are getting rid of a car that has no relative value but is still safe and serviceable it would really help us. You can contact us at the friary at 01274-721-989 or by email at [saintpiofriary@gmail.com](mailto:saintpiofriary@gmail.com).

You are in our daily prayers and offer mass for the intentions of all of our benefactors on the first Friday of every month. Thank you so much for your on-going support.

