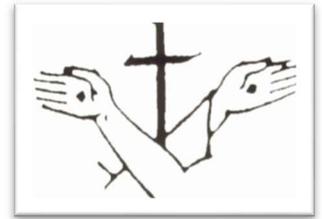




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Si"



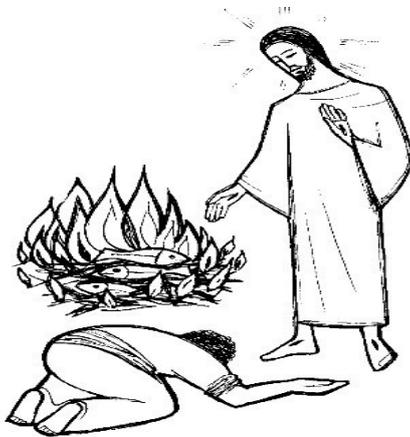
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**  
**Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ**

Masses:

**Monday to Friday 12:15pm**  
**Tuesday, after Mass, Novena to St. Antony of Padua.**  
**Saturday: Morning Prayer: 9:40am**  
**Mass: 10:00am followed by Adoration of Blessed Sacrament until 11:30**  
**Confession: 10:30am – 11:30am**  
**Evening Mass: 6:00pm**  
**Confession: 5:00pm – 5:45pm**  
**Sunday: 9:00am, 10:15am & 12 noon.**

**Friars in Residence:** Fr Patrick Lonsdale OFM (Guardian), Fr Donal Walsh OFM,  
 Fr Brian McGrath OFM, Fr Michael O'Grady OFM (Parish Priest),  
**Postal Address:** The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1NS  
**The Parish Office:** Open Monday to Friday 9:30am – 3:00pm  
**Parish Secretary:** Kathleen Allen  
**Pastoral Assistant:** Derek Hoddy

**Tel: 0208 534 1964**      **Email Address: [stratford@friar.org](mailto:stratford@friar.org) Website: [stfrancisassisistratford.com](http://stfrancisassisistratford.com)**



**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

In this Easter season of great gladness, we listen carefully to the stories of our risen Lord. Each one helps us to see how his presence gives us courage and new hope.

"Jesus said to him 'Feed my sheep'". The rest of the world has settled back to normal after the Easter holidays, but we continue to dwell on the resurrection of Jesus and the growth of the Church. Today's Gospel, which many people consider the most beautiful of the resurrection stories, has got many themes: the failed fishing trip, the initial inability of Peter to recognise the risen Jesus, the miracle of the 153 fish and the simple, powerful reassuring words of Jesus to his confused disciples: "**Come and have breakfast.**" We can all find ourselves a place in this Gospel story, as we continue to wonder at the resurrection. After

the resurrection, Jesus revealed himself once again on the Sea of Galilee ("Tiberius,"). In the half-light of the morning, he called to his followers from the shore, telling them to cast their nets to the right side of the boat. Although they'd fished all night and caught nothing, their obedience to Jesus brought forth a great number of fish. John was the first to understand the meaning of this sign and cried out, "It is the Lord!" Peter was the first to act, swimming and dragging the heavily laden net to shore. Although the net held a great catch of fish, it was not torn. The unbroken net was a symbol of the future mission of the Church to bring souls to Christ. Afterward, Peter was given a three-fold opportunity to publicly profess his devotion in reparation for his three denials. For each declaration of faith, the Risen Lord commanded Peter to feed the flock, the Christian community. Peter, the Church's future shepherd, would lay down his life for the sake of the flock as Jesus did.

**Today's Readings:**

**Acts 5:27-32. 40-41:** The apostles are proud to give witness to their risen Lord and suffer humiliation for the sake of his name.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

**Apocalypse 5:11-14:** All living beings give praise to the Lamb of God.

**John 21:1-19:** The love of God is shown in the love we show to people in need.

**Pray for those who have died, and whose Anniversaries occur around this time, also, please pray for the sick, and, remember the People of Ukraine.**

**MARY'S MONTH:** The month of May, with its flowers,



was adopted by the Church in the eighteenth century as a celebration of the flowering of Mary's spirituality. In Isaiah's prophecy of the Virgin birth of the Messiah, the figure of the Blossoming Rod, or Root of Jesse, the flower symbolism of Mary was extended by the Church Fathers, and, in the

liturgy, by applying to her the flower figures of the Bible books: Canticles, Wisdom, Proverbs and Sirach. In the medieval period, the rose was adopted as the flower symbol of the Virgin Birth, as expressed in Dante's phrase, 'The Rose wherein the Divine Word was made flesh,' and depicted in the rose windows of the great gothic cathedrals, from which came the Christmas carol, 'Lo, How a Rose 'ere Blooming.' Also, with the spread of the Franciscan love of nature, the rose of the fields, waysides and gardens, came to be seen as symbols of Mary.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2022/2023**

These are available at the **BACK OF THE CHURCH.**  
**PLEASE SEE THE STEWARDS.**

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI GIFT AID/QR CODES:**

**Please take a Donation Sheet located at the back of the Church.**

**VOLUNTEERS FOR DISTRUTING HOT DRINK/SANDWICHES TO THE HOMLESS:**

Thank you for the generosity and kindness for all the projects to help the Homeless that we are part of. Starting **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**, we will begin again offering a hot drink and a sandwich at the Friary, between 09:30 – 11.30 Monday to Friday. We are grateful for all the volunteers that helped over the years, but, we need new volunteers – perhaps one morning per week. If you would like to volunteer or would like more details, please speak to the Parish Office. Thank you.

**MASS ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY –**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2022. Mass will be at 10am.**



**St Vincent  
de Paul Society**

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

**The SVP appeal for members is NEXT Saturday and Sunday (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> May).** The aim of the St Vincent De Paul (SVP) Society is to tackle poverty through the provision of practical assistance to people in need, visiting people who are sick, lonely, in prison, or suffering from addiction. The essence of the work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people. Our own St Francis SVP is now down to three valiant members. We need more, and younger, members to revitalise the good work in Stratford. Martyn Camilleri from the SVP will give a short talk at the end of Mass. There will be short follow up meetings to provide further information for anyone who is interested starting on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 a 7.00 pm in the hall. If you would like to find out more in the meantime, please contact the membership support officer for Brentwood Martyn on 07799 904732 or [martync@svp.org.uk](mailto:martync@svp.org.uk).



**2021 Synod 2023**  
For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

**Prayer:**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With you alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts.

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful: do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partially influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.  
Amen.

**Invitation:** The Franciscan Community invite enquiries from young people aged 18-35 years interested in the religious and/or priestly life? If interested, please contact Fr. Donal as well as via email: [brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk) (Franciscan website: [friar.org](http://friar.org)).