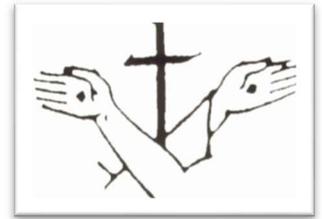




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “Laudato, Si”



## 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),  
The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1NS  
Open Monday to Friday 9:30am – 3:00pm  
Kathleen Allen  
Derek Hoddy

### Postal Address:

### The Parish Office:

### Parish Secretary:

### Pastoral Assistant:

Tel: 0208 534 1964

Email Address: [stratford@friar.org](mailto:stratford@friar.org) Website: [stfrancisassisistratford.co](http://stfrancisassisistratford.co)



### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Jesus grew up in the country; he was familiar with a countryside of hills and valleys where he often saw flocks of sheep with their shepherds. In John’s Gospel, he describes himself as a “good shepherd” who talks to his sheep and keeps them safe. The good shepherd knows his sheep, loves them, keeps them from danger and rescues them if they go astray. Let us respond to his words of peace and forgiveness.

### Today’s Readings

**Acts 13:14. 43-52:**

Despite opposition, many of the people of Antioch respond to the preaching of Paul and Barnabas and become Christians.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**We are His people, the sheep of His flock.**

**Apocalypse 7:9. 14-17:** St John has a vision of the hosts of believers in heaven, too many to count, from every nation on earth.

**John 10:27-30:**

**“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me”** Jesus the good shepherd speaks to his sheep and leads us into eternal life.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Sat 18 June: Day for Altar Servers

Sat 24 Sep: Evangelisation Day Sat 26 Nov: Day for Lectors.

All sessions at St Francis Hall, Stratford are open to all Newham & begin after the 10am Mass.

**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.**



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

**The SVP appeal for members is THIS weekend:  
Saturday 6pm; Sunday 10.15am and 12 noon .**

Turn your concern into action. It is through The St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) that our Parish of St Francis confronts 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 applying the messages of Catholic Social Teaching through 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. Please fill in a form at the back of the Church if you are interested in finding out more. There will be short follow up meetings to provide further information for anyone who is interested starting **7pm on Monday 16 May 2022** in the hall. Info: Martyn on 07799 904732 or [martync@svp.org.uk](mailto:martync@svp.org.uk).



“May is Mary’s month” –that’s how the poem by Stratford-born Poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, begins. The month of May is rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is always part of the Easter season. Easter is the 50 days when we

celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of May as Mary’s Month fits in well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary’s great joy in her Son’s victory over death, as well as her presence with the apostles in the upper room prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

#### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DURING MAY:**

Throughout the month of May, the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place during 10:15 and 12 noon Masses starting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Please keep all the First Holy Communion Candidates in your prayers.

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

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

#### **TRAIDCRAFT STALL 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022:**

After all Sunday Masses, the stall selling and promoting Fair Trade and Traidcraft products will be at the back of the Church on **Every second Sunday of the month.** Please stop by.

**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)).



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.

*This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday when we are invited by the Church to pray in a particular way for vocations to the priesthood. Please pray for Vocations and for those who are training for the priesthood. There is also a retiring collection to support the promotion of vocations.*