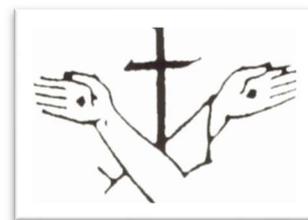




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “Laudato, Si”



## 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)

love  
each other  
as I have  
loved you.  
John 15:12

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

We are called to live in the “glorious freedom of the children of God”. Let us ask the Lord’s mercy for the times when we have failed to live up to that calling

### Today’s Readings

**Acts 15:1-2. 22-29:** The leaders of the early Church allow themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit in their decisions. **“It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves, not to saddle you with any burden.”**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Let the peoples praise you, oh God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

**Apocalypse 21:10-14. 22-23:** John’s revelation is of the Church as the new Jerusalem, a walled and gated city, but these are not built to exclude sinners or those we consider unworthy or outsiders. The temple is the body of Christ himself.

**Gospel John 14:23-29:** At the Last Supper Jesus speaks words of inexpressible comfort. He promises that the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, will find a home in us as individuals and as a community when we learn to keep his word.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** Sat. 11 June 2022 at 7pm in the Large Hall – **Storytelling Evening.**

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

Sat 18 June: **Day for Altar Servers** Sat 24 Sep: **Evangelisation Day**

Sat 26 Nov: **Day for Lectors**

**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.**

### **THE ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF OUR LADY:**

From **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**, the Church **will be open from 11:30am** for those who wish to say **The Rosary** during the Month of Our Lady, to thank her for Her blessings.

### **“May is Mary’s month” and Pentecost.**



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Ordinary Time begins 6<sup>th</sup> June this year. The story is told that Pope Paul VI wept when he came to celebrate Mass the day after Pentecost Sunday and found green vestments laid out. “What happened to the Octave of Pentecost?” “That’s gone.” “Who

took it away?” “I’m afraid you did, Your Holiness.” Vatican II liturgical reform dumped us unceremoniously back into Ordinary Time the day after Pentecost. Now, Pope Francis has provided a buffer between Pentecost and Ordinary Time with the brand-new feast “Mary, Mother of the Church,” (6<sup>th</sup> June) the very title that Pope Paul himself ‘trademarked’, you might say, during Vatican II. It’s a stunning image, Mary joining the apostles (the Church) to pray the first ever “novena;” a novena for the coming of the Holy Spirit. I think I see her secret smile!

### **A FAMILY STORYTELLING EVENING 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022 AT 7PM IN THE LARGE HALL.**

An evening of Storytelling has been arranged for the above date. We look forward to seeing you all and hearing your folk tales, fond memories, fables etc. There will also be fantastic food. Free entry.



### **HOLY HOUR - (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)**

Every week on Saturday after 10am Mass, there is an opportunity for Confession during the time of adoration: 10.30 – 11.30am.

**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)).

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

THURSDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> MAY, LUKE 24:46-53

**Holy Day of Obligation**

(Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23)



“As he blessed them, he parted from them and was taken up to heaven”

Luke ends his gospel with the Ascension of Jesus Christ, and the Ascension also begins the Acts of the Apostles,

Luke’s account of the early Church. When the Risen Christ appeared to his disciples for the last time on earth, he opened their minds to understand his passion, death, and resurrection - God's plan foretold in the scriptures. Jesus' disciples were witnesses of these events. Now they would become “apostles,” that is, people sent out in the power of Christ's name to proclaim the gospel. The apostles would not testify to this truth on their own; the Spirit would “clothe” them with “power from on high”. After Jesus blessed them and was taken to heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy. There they awaited the promise of the Spirit’s coming at Pentecost- the first Novena.

### **EMERGING FROM LOCKDOWN**



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We are very blessed with the number of people who help to keep the Parish running. Now we need EXTRA, Readers, Ministers of Communion, Stewards, Catechists, Altar Servers, Church Cleaners, SVP Members. If you can help in any

way, speak to one of the priests. The Church depends on your goodwill and generosity with your time.

