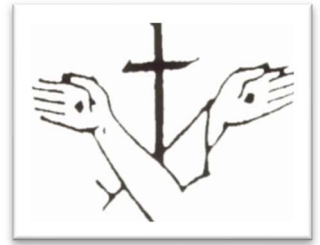




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “Laudato, Si”



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

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 11th September 2022

Today we are reminded of the loving kindness of our God, who goes searching for people who lose their way; he never gives up on anyone. Let us come home to our heavenly Father’s embrace



Today’s Readings

Exodus 32:7-11. 13-14: When the Israelites returned to the worship of idols, God showed mercy to them.

Response to the Psalm: I will leave this place and go to my father.

1 Timothy 12-17: Paul was the arch-persecutor of Christians, yet God was endlessly patient with him.

Luke 15:1-32: The parable of the prodigal son assures us that mercy will be shown to every sinner who turns back to God.

“This son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.”

Luke said that the “sinners were all drawing near” to Jesus, while the Pharisees and the Scribes were complaining: “This fellow welcomes sinners, and eats with them.” Through a parable, Jesus reminded them of God's unconditional love for the wayward and lost. In this story of God's amazing grace, the prodigal son (the Gentiles) came to his senses after he had squandered his inheritance in dissolute living. When he returned to the waiting arms of his father, they celebrated with a feast (the Eucharistic banquet). The elder son (Israel) protested that he had been faithful all his life yet never received such a reward. The father reminded his firstborn son that everything had always belonged to him. He asked his son to rejoice because his brother was once lost but had returned home to his loving embrace. This parable might be titled the story of “**The Two Sons**” to emphasize the younger son's repentance (the tax collectors and sinners) and the envy and narrow-mindedness of the elder son (the religious leaders). It might better be called the “**Parable of the Loving Father**” to express the unconditional love and grace of God toward all his children.

Wednesday 14th September 2022 – The Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross.

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up”.

On the Israelite's trek to the Promised Land, they were worn out from their long journey. The people complained against God and Moses that they had been brought out to the desert to die. They forgot the works of the Lord and did not hear God's words of mercy. As punishment for their lack of trust in God's providence, some of them were bitten by snakes and died. When Moses interceded on their behalf, God commanded him to make an image of serpent (the ancient symbol of evil) and mount it on a pole. All who looked upon it were healed. Jesus made an analogy of the bronze serpent to the saving power of the cross, a sign of both sin and redemption. When God lifted Jesus up, “exalted” him, in the resurrection, the cross was no longer a sign of shame and defeat, but a sign of victory and salvation. Jesus came into the world to bring healing not judgment, salvation not condemnation, life not death. Those things in our lives that cause pain and suffering in our lives can be an instrument for our deliverance.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: *First Holy Communion Application Forms to be returned to the Parish Office by 19th September 2022. 16th & 17th October – The Relics of St. Bernadette at Brentwood. 18th & 19th October – The Relics of St. Bernadette at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. 22nd October 2022 – Games Night and Dance courtesy of The Knights of St. Columba & The Bubby Club at St. Francis Large Hall.*

POPE JOHN PAUL I.

On Sunday 4th September, Pope Francis beatified Pope John Paul I, affectionately known as 'The Smiling Pope', who was Pope in 1978 for 33 days. Elected Pope on August 26th, he chose the name John Paul to honour his predecessors. To the shock of the world and the Church, he died on September 28th. His funeral Mass was held on October 4th 1978 – the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



The following is taken from the homely given by Pope John Paul I at the Inauguration of his Pontificate September 3rd 1978: "In this sacred celebration, which is the solemn beginning of the ministry which has been placed on our shoulders, the ministry of Supreme Pastor of the Church we first turn our mind in adoration and prayer to the infinite and eternal God. Our presiding is charity is about service, and in saying this, we are thinking not only of our Catholic brothers and sisters and sons and daughters, but of all those who try to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to love God and to work for the good of humanity." Pope Saint John Paul I, pray for us that we too for love of God work for the good of humanity.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II - R.I.P.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic community joins everyone who mourns the death of Queen Elizabeth II. We fondly remember her long service and pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

May she Rest in Peace.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

This takes place in Lisbon next summer, 26th July to 9th August 2023, for anyone aged 17 – 27. If you are interested, there will be a meeting **Wednesday 14th September 2022, 7 – 8:30pm at St. Edward the Confessor, 5 Park End Road, Romford, RM1 4AT.** (The Church is approx. 10 minutes walk from Romford Station, parking is available, but please note there are 2 churches called St. Edward the Confessor in Romford).

TRADCRAFT STALL 10th September '22

Traidcraft Stall will be *after each Mass this Sunday* – everyone is welcome.

Invitation: The Francian 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:

FUNERAL MASSES AT

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, STRATFORD.

Funeral Mass – 12:15 - 14th September 2022 –

Ms. B. McFarlane – R.I.P.

Funeral Mass – 12:15 - 16th September 2022 –

Mr. J. Bastien – R.I.P.



**St Bonaventure's
OPEN EVENING**

YEAR 5 & 6 PARENTS

For Year 7 Admission September 2023



6th October 2022, 6 - 8pm

OPEN MORNINGS 10th - 13th October, 9:30 - 11:30am

**SCAN QR CODE TO
REGISTER INTEREST**

Follow us online on

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Please note, for those couples thinking of getting married, we require **at least 6 months notice** in order to prepare, both sacramentally and with regard to the necessary paperwork. This is especially important if you are thinking of getting married abroad. We would strongly suggest that you make an appointment as soon as you are considering getting married.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

Application Forms are available at the back of the Church, on the Website, and from the Parish Office. The closing date **FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS 19TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH
Grove Crescent Rd, Stratford, E15 1BJ**

Masses

Monday to Friday 12:15. Tuesday, after Mass, St Anthony Novena.

Saturday: Morning Prayer: 9:40am Mass 10am followed by Holy Hour Adoration of Blessed Sacrament until 11:30am.

Confession: 10:30am – 11:30am

Sunday: 6pm Saturday, 9am, 10:15am, 12 noon & 4.30pm (Ukrainian)

Confessions: Sat: 10.30 - 11.30am & 5 – 5.45pm

Friars in Residence: Fr Patrick Lonsdale OFM

(Guardian), Fr Donal Walsh OFM, Fr Brian McGrath OFM, Fr Michael O'Grady OFM (Parish Priest),

Address: The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1NS. **Parish Office:** Monday to Friday 9:30am -3pm

Parish Secretary: Kathleen Allen

Pastoral Assistant: Derek Hoddy

Tel: 0208 534 1964 **Email:** stratford@friar.org **Website:**