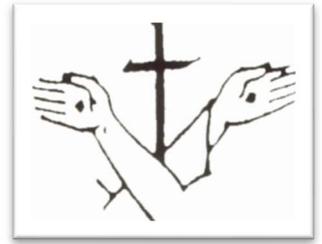




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “*Laudato, Si*”



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

28th Sunday
of
Ordinary
Time

28th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – 9th OCTOBER 2022

Feeling and expressing appreciation is good for us. Like any wise father, God wants us to learn to be thankful for all the gifts He has given us. It is in our best interest to be reminded that everything we have is a gift from Him. Without gratitude, we become arrogant and self-centred. We begin to believe that we have achieved everything on our own. Thankfulness keeps our hearts in right relationship to the Giver of all good gifts.

Today's Readings

1st Reading: Kings: Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of Elisha, the man of God.

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord has shown His salvation to the nations.

2nd Reading: Timothy: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel.

Gospel: Luke: As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!”



They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!”

The Samaritan leper, because of his thanking God, was really whole, in body and in soul, for that time as well as for eternity because he was saved indeed (Lk. 17:19). Naaman's sincere gratitude to Yahweh brought him faith in Yahweh and he was determined to serve him faithfully. Naaman's obedience to Elisha healed him and his faith in Yahweh healed his sins. While humility obtained for him the cure of his skin disease, gratitude won him a far greater grace: faith in the true God, “Truly I know there is no other God, in all the earth except in Israel” (2Kgs. 5:15). Jesus was pleased to see the Samaritan leper on his return to praise God for saving him. He expected all of them to return not for their praise of him but so he could complete the healing work he had begun in them and bring them to faith. The other nine must have gone home happily with their certificates of fitness issued by the priest; the Samaritan leper however, went home not just healed but saved too. May I challenge all of us to try gratitude in those moments when we need a saving. At those times when our prayers seem unanswered by God, may we hear God saying to us ‘try saying thank you for all you have done for me’. May we learn to acknowledge the might of God and his providential care for us. May we remember that all we have is a given and a consequence of God's mercy and so realize how needful it is to return thanks to him. Sincere gratitude does not add anything to God's greatness; rather it profits us for salvation, we may do well to remember that always. Psalm 103:2 exhorts us: “Bless the Lord my soul, and never forget all his benefits”.

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

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS AND VALUABLES UNATTENDED DURING MASS.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – World Food Crisis

Appeal: Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. As each day goes by, the situation worsens. As people of faith we must act. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table. Please give today or start a monthly gift to CAFOD. Use the envelope for our parish collection or go to cafod.org.uk/fastday



THE PILGRIMAGE OF ST. BERNADETTE'S RELICS

The pilgrimage of St. Bernadette's relics offers us a welcome opportunity to bear active witness to our Faith, joining with one another across our many communities to encounter God's love and find spiritual emotional and psychological healing and renewal. The relics will be at **Brentwood on 16th & 17th October 2022**, and at **Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead on 18th & 19th October 2022**. The Reservation System is now open and can be accessed via stbernadette.org.uk/the-tour

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

Today, Sunday 9th October 2022, Traidcraft Stall will be open after all Sunday Masses.

ST BERNADETTE – RELICS – OCT. 2022.

Bishop Alan Williams sm has recorded a video inviting all to come and pray with the relics of St Bernadette at the Cathedral on Sunday 16th/Monday 17th October or at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead on 18th/19th October. He will celebrate Mass at 11.30am on 16th at Brentwood Cathedral and at 7.30pm on 18th at Wanstead. There will be a youth Mass at 6.30pm on Sunday 16th in Brentwood Cathedral. The Bishop's video message can be found here: [A personal invitation from Bishop Alan to visit the relics of St Bernadette - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net)

TEA & COFFEE MORNING
SUNDAY 23RD OCT. 2022

You are invited to a "Tea & Coffee Morning" in the Large Hall on the above date, after each Sunday Mass. Everyone is welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 16th & 17th October – The Relics of St, Bernadette at Brentwood. 18th & 19th October – The Relics of St, Bernadette at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. Games & Dance Night 22nd October 2022 in the Large Hall. See posters at the back of the Church. 23rd October 2022 – Tea & Coffee Morning after all Masses in the Large Hall. Everyone welcome.

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 your are considering getting married.

Safeguarding: The Stratford Friars are taking part in our safeguarding training this couple of weeks. We, as a Friary and as a Parish must keep this matter constantly before our eyes. We must all contribute to making a Culture of awareness and protection of the vulnerable.

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 & 5pm – 5:45pm

Sunday: 6pm Saturday, 9am, 10:15am, 12 noon & 4:30pm(Ukrainian).

Friars in Residence:

Fr Patrick Lonsdale, OFM (Guardian).

Fr Michael O'Grady, OFM (Parish Priest)

Fr Brian McGrath, OFM.

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

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