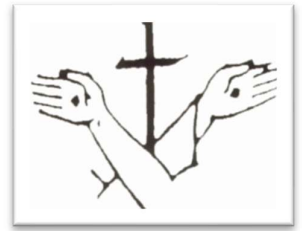




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “Laudato, Si”



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



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 27TH NOVEMBER 2022.

Advent invites us to open our hearts to the hope that the Lord gives us as we prepare celebrate his birth and look forward to his coming at the end of time.

‘The time’ has come,” says St Paul in our second reading. Christ is close by. You must wake up now; your salvation is close at hand

Today’s Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5: The prophet Isaiah speaks of the pilgrims climbing up to Jerusalem and finding peace. We are called to make our home in Christ and in his kingdom where there will be peace, justice and joy. The Church shows us the way.

Response to the Psalm: I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house’.

Romans 13:11-14: In a stark warning, St Paul calls us to amend our lives and return to the way of the Lord.

Matthew 24:37-44: Jesus warns against complacency and summons us to focus on Christ and his life.

***“Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come”.***

The early Christians suffered persecution and they longed for the immediate return of the Lord. But Jesus told his disciples that it was futile to speculate regarding his Second Coming, for the hour of that event was known to God alone. Jesus warned them that his coming would be similar to Noah's day. Noah was a righteous man who “walked with God”. He listened to God's warning, and he and his family were saved from destruction. The sinful and lawless people had no concern about the future until the flood came and swept them all away. So too, at the time of Christ’s coming, men and women will be preoccupied with their ordinary activities. The picture of the two men in the field and the two women grinding meal emphasises the sudden separation that Christ's coming would bring. Those prepared for Christ's arrival would be taken into God's kingdom; however, those who were unready would be left behind in their own sinfulness. Jesus' followers must prepare themselves and be vigilant for his coming whenever it might occur.



Dates for your Diary:

27th November 2022 – 4pm – Advent Service at Brentwood Cathedral.

Pray for those who have died, and those whose Anniversaries occur around this time, also, please pray for the sick, and, remember the People of Ukraine, & those inscribed on the November Dead List.



**St. Francis of Assisi Church,
Senior Parishioners
Christmas Lunch.**

(Also, open to any parishioner who might not otherwise be able to join family or friends for a Christmas meal this year).

Date: 8 Dec 2022 **Time:** 1.30 pm for 2pm serving
Venue: 012 Bar and Grill 108/110 The Grove.
Booking to be made by Sat 3 Dec, by calling Sarah McKiernan on 07778 868827 and paying £5 deposit either to Sarah, or Kathy in the Parish office. **Please book as early as possible.** See the Poster at the back of the Church OR on the Parish Website, for full details.



ADVENT WREATH

Advent wreaths are traditionally made from evergreen branches and have four candles. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent—the time of preparation for

the coming of Christ, both at Christmas and at his second coming.

The progressive lighting of the candles during Advent represents the expectation and the hope surrounding our Lord's coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The circle of the Advent wreath has neither a beginning nor an end. It reminds us of God's unending love that the faithful should show the Lord and their neighbour. The green colour of the wreath represents hope and life, a sign that Christ is alive among us.

During the Advent season, you will notice a common theme in the Gospel readings. The readings focus on **preparation** or **"making straight the path of the Lord."** This should remind us of the importance of preparing our hearts for the Lord and making room for his presence in our lives.

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

NIGHT SHELTER

Walk of Prayer 3rd December 2022:

The walk begins at St. Francis at 1pm here. It will visit all the churches involved in the Winter Night Shelter Programme. An opportunity for prayer as we begin the Winter Night Shelter Programme. It is expected that the Walk will finish at about 4:30pm.

NIGHT SHELTER AT ST. FRANCIS

This will begin on Wednesday 18th January 2023. We need volunteers for running this programme on a Wednesday every two weeks until March 2023. Volunteers needed to set up, cook an evening meal and breakfast, clean up on Thursday morning, and a couple of people to sleep overnight. Forms will be available next Sunday 4th December 2022. More info from the Parish Office.

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 the 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)

Address: The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, 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: stfrancisassisistratford.com