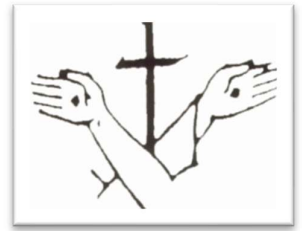




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “Laudato, Si”



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

3rd Sunday of Advent – 10th/11th December 2022



On the third Sunday of Advent, we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. On this “Gaudete” Sunday, we focus on expectancy and celebration. “Gaudete” is a Latin word commanding us to “rejoice”. It’s almost as though we can’t wait for Christmas We celebrate together, now in the hope we have because, despite the evils in the world, Christ is with us.

Today’s Readings

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10: Desolate, dry places will be transformed into paradise. Creation’s praise joins human praise, recognising God’s marvellous works. We daily need to renew our faltering faith.

Response to the Psalm:

Come, Lord, and save us.

James 5:7-10: James emphasises patience, explaining that we must wait patiently just as a farmer waits for seeds to grow.

Matthew 11:2-11: Jesus wants to assure both John and his disciples that he is the Messiah. He also reminds them that his power is displayed in humble acts of service rather than spectacular displays of political power.

**“This is the one about whom it is written,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you’”**

*Behold,
the Lamb
of God*

John the Baptist prophesied that the Messiah would come with fire and judgment. But he was astonished to discover that Jesus came with healing and mercy. From prison, John sent his disciples to ask whether Jesus was indeed the “one who is to come” or should they look for another Messiah. Jesus pointed out how his ministry was fulfilling the messianic expectations, he had announced at the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus added a new beatitude, a blessing, for everyone whose faith did not falter because of him. Although Jesus praised John saying that there was none who surpassed this messenger of God, the prophet belonged to the old order that was passing away. Through baptism, the least one in God’s kingdom was greater than John.

Dates for your Diary: 11th December 2022 – Traidcraft Stall after all Sunday Masses.

11th December 2022 – Holy Communion Candidates Meeting at 2pm in the Church.

17th December 2022 – Confessions from 10:30am – 12:30pm & 4:00pm – 5:45pm.

24th December 2022 – Confessions from 10:30 – 11:30 only.

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

TRADICRAFT STALL
AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES TODAY.
Everyone Welcome!

There will be NO CONFESSIONS BEFORE 6pm MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE. More opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are on Christmas Eve Morning between 10:30 – 11:30, and on Saturday 17th December between 10:30am – 12:30pm, & 4:00pm - 5:45pm.

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 at the back of the Church. More info from the Parish Office.

HOLY COMMUNION MEETING
11th DECEMBER 2022

There is a meeting this afternoon in the Large & Small Halls at 2pm, for all Holy Communion Candidates & their parents/guardians. We look forward to seeing you all there.

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).

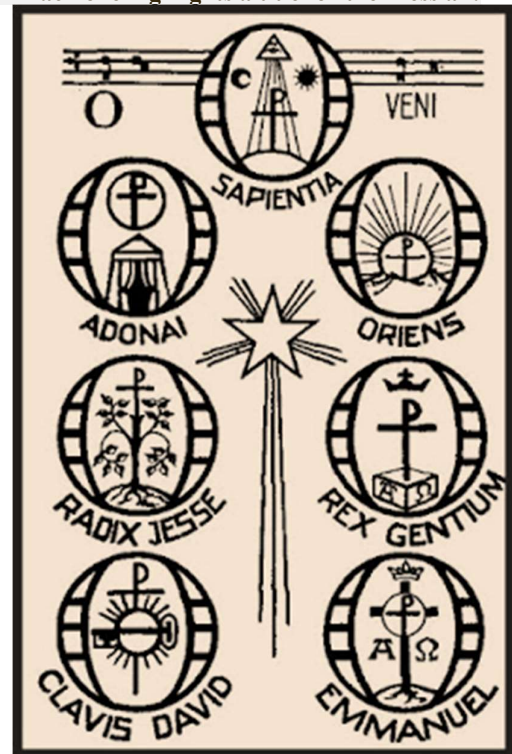
Friars in Residence:

Fr Patrick Lonsdale, OFM (Guardian)
Fr Michael O'Grady, OFM (Parish Priest)
Fr Brian McGrath, OFM
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

The O ANTIPHONS, December 17-23

The seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for Christmas 'O Emanuel'. The Gospel Acclamation for weekday Masses from 17th to 23rd December use the same text (without the 'O's'!

Each one highlights a title for the Messiah:



O Sapientia (O Wisdom),
 O Adonai (O Sacred Lord),
 O Radix Jesse (O Flower of Jesse's Stem),
 O Clavis David (O Key of David),
 O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn),
 O Rex Gentium (O King of all Nations),
 O Emmanuel.

Each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah. The "O Antiphons" were first used by the Church in the 8th and 9th centuries. In these "O Antiphons" the Church expresses her longing for the coming of the Messiah. The Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is based on the "O Antiphons."

St Antony's Church is organising a Youth Liturgy on Friday 16th Dec, 4.30-6.00pm. There will be an opportunity for praise and worship, adoration, and Fr. Ruben Garza from the USA will be the guest speaker. We encourage all secondary school students to attend. Invitation is open to family and friends. We hope to see you there