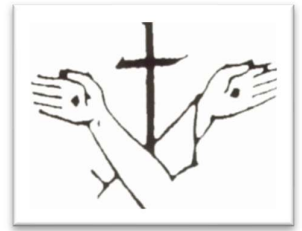




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Si"



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



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5th February 2023

Racial Justice Day,

Life isn't about "me" and my wants. Life is about noticing the vulnerable people around us and sharing our time and energy to support them. We are called to be the voice for people who do not find the justice that they need to live in dignity and peace.

Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Let us ask forgiveness for all those times that we have failed to be so.

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 58:7-10: If we are prepared to share even life's essentials with others and to act with justice, then we will be very close to God.

Response to the Psalm:

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5: Our faith should not be placed in human wisdom, but in God's power.

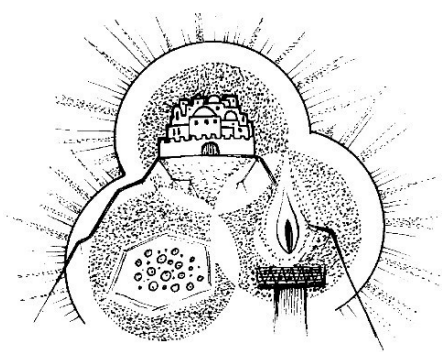
Matthew 5:13-16: If we are truly the salt of the earth and the light of the world, people should be able to see Jesus alive and active in us.

SALT & MATTHEW 5:13-16 LIGHT

You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world"

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spelled out what it meant to be a living sign of God's reign. In order to influence the world for good, a disciple had got to be like "salt," which caused others to thirst for God. In the ancient world, salt was highly valued, so much so that it was often used as currency ("salary"). Salt was also used to preserve food from corruption, and to give it flavour. Jesus compared people who no longer savoured God's truth, with the process of cooking. Jesus' disciples could offer an important ingredient that added zest to peoples' lives and helped to preserve them from evil. Jesus also commanded his followers to do what he

did, to give light to the world. The houses in Palestine were very dark with only a small window to give light. A lamp was placed on a lampstand so that it would provide illumination for the whole household. Jesus' disciples should be beacons of light to people who lost their way. But if we're going to be light, we got to be willing to be used up as the oil in the lamp. Like John the Baptist, we've got to decrease so that Christ's light will increase. When other people see this light, they will give glory to God.



Dates for your Diary: 10th February 2023 – REQUIEM MASS. 11th February 2023 – VALENTINES DAY DANCE & KARAOKE. See the poster at the back of the Church for details. 15th February 2023 – NIGHTSHELTER.

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.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED:

Someone studying in the area is looking to rent a 2-bedroom flat or house. If you know of anyone renting property, please contact the Parish Secretary. Thank you.

REQUIEM MASS

Friday 10th February 2023 – 12:15pm
Mrs. Catherine Virginia Delsol – R.I.P.



VALENTINE'S DANCE

11th February 2023 7:30pm



The Bubbly Club and the Knights of St. Columba invite everyone to a Valentines Dance on Saturday 11th February 2023 at 7:30pm in the Large Hall.
Tickets: £10 for Adults, £5 for children 7 years – 11 years. Food and soft drinks will be provided. Please bring your own alcoholic beverages. See the Poster at the back of the Church for full details. Everyone welcome!

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

12th FEBRUARY 2023

The Traidcraft Stall will be open after all Sunday Masses on 12th February 2023. Everyone Welcome!



HOLY HOUR

EVERY Saturday

10.30am to 11.30am
(after 10am Mass)



NOVENA
in honour of
St ANTHONY
EVERY Tuesday
1pm to 1.30pm
(after 12.15 Mass).

The Friars

Are looking for a COOK!
Two or three days a week.
Hours and salary negotiable
Apply, in first place, to Parish Office

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

is an established children's charity delivering vital mental health services in schools throughout the diocese and in our specially adapted therapy rooms in Billericay. Currently we are seeking to appoint new trustees to our Board to help guide and develop our work. Further information is available on our website <https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/our-trustees/> or please email Bernadette our Director at bfisher@bccs.org.uk who will be happy to discuss this important role with you. Thank you.

Embark on a **Luxury, All-Inclusive Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 5th – 12th September 2023**, with All Saints Travel Ltd

and **Fr John Moloney**. Be face to face with the world of Jesus and His Gospel, lived out before your eyes. The beautiful, tried and tested 8-day itinerary promises to bring the faithful pilgrim an unforgettable and life-changing experience. This pilgrimage will include a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv with Israel's national airline, EL AL (in-flight meals included), all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner every day), an executive touring coach, a professional local Christian guide, all entrance fees, all tips and gratuities (paid directly to the guide, driver and hotel staff), as well as luxurious 5* en-suite accommodation. You will stay at a 5-star hotel in Jerusalem for 4 nights and in a 5-star hotel set on the Sea of Galilee with stunning views and private beach access for 3 nights. Full details are online

<https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/>.

Safeguarding: 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).

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

