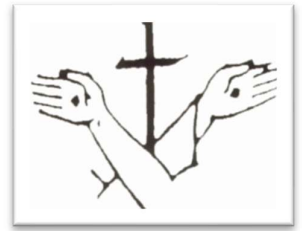




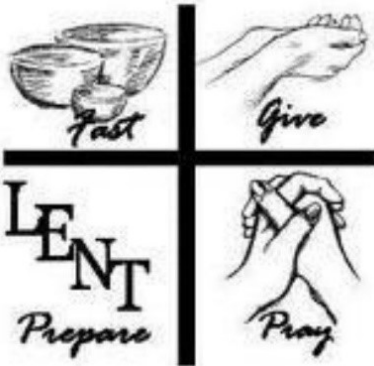
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “Laudato, Si”



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT – 12th March 2023



Today’s readings focus on living water as a symbol of God’s healing love and desire to save. They also remind us of the deep thirst within every human soul that can lead to deep relationship with God or to desert dryness and emptiness. The choice is ours.

TODAYS READINGS:

Exodus 17:3-7: The book of Exodus tells the story of God’s unfailing desire to be in relationship with us. However unfaithful we may be, however many false idols we may turn to in our search for security, God will never fail us and always holds to the covenant promises.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts’.

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8: Paul writes to the Romans, reminding them that through God’s grace they have a reliable hope that cannot be disappointed. This is not cheap and easy grace, but the power, through Christ, to live differently and to trust in his promises.

John 4:5-42: The story of the woman of Samaria is rich with resonance. Jesus comes to meet this woman where she is. He listens to her questions and her struggles with faith, trust and hope. He invites her to change her perception of God and by doing so changes her experience of herself.

“The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life”

The woman who met Jesus at the well was despised as a heretical Samaritan, a descendant of the Assyrian occupation. With their mixed Jewish and pagan beliefs, Samaritans were regarded as unfit to worship in the temple in Jerusalem. Thus, the Samaritans built their own temple on Mount Gerizim. Jesus looked beyond national and religious boundaries to the coming of the Spirit who would unite all believers in the worship of one God. At first, the woman was suspicious of Jesus, but as he revealed her inner need, the woman changed her attitude. She addressed him as “sir” then as “prophet.” Then she recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and finally as her personal Saviour. Leaving her empty water jar behind (a symbol of her arid life), the woman ran off to tell the people in the village that she found the Lord. A lot of them believed because of the strength of her testimony. Jesus’ disciples had gone to the city to buy food, and when they returned, he asked them to pray for other people, who, like the woman, would harvest the ripe field of souls that lay before them. Each of us needs a personal encounter with Jesus. St. Augustine said, “It was for you that Jesus was weary from the journey.”



Dates for your Diary: STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT AT 7:30PM.

12th MARCH 2023 – HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES MEETING 2PM IN THE CHUCH..

17th MARCH 2023 – ST PATRICKS DAY. 1st APRIL 2023 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE OLYMPIC PARK AT 11:30. 2nd APRIL 2023 – PALM SUNDAY. 9th APRIL 2023 – EASTER SUNDAY.

FROM 10TH – 14TH APRIL 2023 – DAILY MASS WILL BE AT 10:00AM INSTEAD OF 12:15PM.

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. Our thoughts and prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake.

**Stations of the Cross
Every Friday of Lent
7.30pm**

*If you have not come yet this Lent,
do join us on the Way of the Cross.*

We are also looking for volunteers to prepare and serve Tea/Coffee/Sandwiches to the Homeless from the Friary, Monday to Friday. Please phone the Parish Office - Kathleen – 020 8534 1964.



On Saturday last, over one thousand young people from our Diocese were among those at Wembley Arena for Flame 2023 - the largest ever gathering of young people from across the Diocese in one place at one time. It marks a major

milestone in Diocesan Youth Ministry, and in post-Covid recovery. The presence of so many young people was only possible because of the encouragement and support of so many priests and people, catechists, school chaplains, teachers and parents, all helped by the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. A wonderful day, full of inspiration, Catholic faith and beautiful prayer. What next? In Newham we are hoping to employ a Youth Co-ordinator. We are trying to get grants and the 7 Parishes will also contribute. Also there will be generous help with funding from Diocesan reserves.

After you have read the attachment, please do not hesitate to get in touch with comments or questions, as well as to seek Claire's support in the next steps towards employing a Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator. Please continue to keep all our young people – and all who walk with them – in your prayers.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED:

If anyone is looking to rent out a room at a reasonable rate – we have an interested party. **ALSO**, for another person studying in the area who is looking to rent a 2-bedroom flat or house. If you know of anyone renting property please contact the Parish Secretary 020 8534 1964. Thank you.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL –

12TH MARCH 2023 LAST ONE EVER!

After the 9am and 10:15am Masses **ONLY**.
Please visit the stall for the very last time.
Everyone welcome.

HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES 2023

**There is a next meeting TODAY, Sunday
12th March, at 2pm in the Church.**

We are looking for someone to do a bit of cooking for the three Friars at St Francis. It could, if wanted, be combined with some cleaning. Speak to one of the Friars or phone the Parish Office.

**THE MASS - 2 (of a series). The Introductory Rites
WE GATHER**



We gather as one – we may arrive at our churches individually or as families, but we gather as one. Why do we celebrate Mass on Sundays? Sunday is the Lord's Day – the day of Creation and the day of Resurrection! We are an

Easter People, and 'Alleluia' is our song! And so we are obliged, out of our love for God and neighbour, to gather on Sunday to celebrate Mass, and also to rest. But if we cannot gather, e.g., because we are ill, the obligation does not apply. How do we prepare to celebrate Mass? We should also gather in good time so that we can bless ourselves with holy water, genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament, find our place and recollect ourselves ready to celebrate Mass. Pope Francis says 'The Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.'

"MOTHERS DAY" Sunday 19th March 2023

The children of St. Francis Primary School will be helping to celebrate Mothers Day at the 10:15 Mass. Tea & Coffee will be served in the Hall afterwards.

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

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