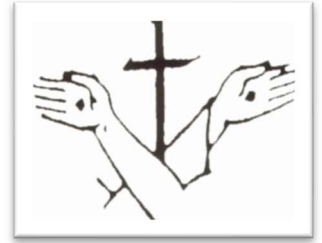




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “Laudato, Si”



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

5th Sunday of
Lent
We prepare

5th SUNDAY OF LENT – 26TH MARCH 2023

Lazarus, the friend of Jesus and the brother of Martha and Mary, is at the centre of today’s Gospel. Lazarus is brought back to life in Jesus’ spectacular and final “sign”, as miracles are termed in John’s Gospel.

TODAYS READINGS.

Ezekiel 37:12-14: Through the prophet, the Lord speaks to the community in exile: “I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.”

Response to the Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fulness of redemption.

Romans 8:8-11: Paul focuses on how God’s Spirit lives in us.

John 11:1-45: The extraordinary account of the final sign that Jesus gave – the raising of Lazarus from death itself.

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live”.

Lazarus was dying, and his sisters, Martha and Mary, sent word to Jesus to come immediately to the village of Bethany where they lived. The disciples feared for Jesus' life as the town was near Jerusalem. Knowing his fate awaited him in the Holy City, Jesus declared that God's glory would be revealed so that all might believe. Jesus was delayed in coming, and upon his arrival, Martha told Jesus that he was too late; her brother had already died. Although Martha reproached Jesus for not coming sooner, she was confident that God would grant whatever he asked. Jesus told her that he had power over life and death and asked her if she believed that his words were true. Like Peter, Martha confessed her faith in Jesus as the “Messiah, the Son of God”. With a powerful command, he raised Lazarus to life, a symbol of Christ's own resurrection and our rising to new life with him. Ironically, it was this gift of life that would lead to Jesus' own death, which offered salvation to the whole world.



“Jesus raises Lazarus.”
John 11:1 – 44

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



The Liturgy of the Word WE LISTEN
THE MASS 3 (of a series)

In the 'Liturgy of the Word' we **listen** as one – to the **First**

Reading, from the Old Testament or the Acts of the Apostles, to the **Second Reading**, from the New Testament, and to the **Gospel** and the **Homily**, **responding** in the Psalm, Profession of Faith and Prayer of the Faithful. How do we listen carefully? It can be quite a challenge to listen attentively to all the readings at Mass! We should do our best to listen to the readings, join in the prayers, sing the hymns and take part in the silence as best we can. One good way of preparing is to read the Sunday readings beforehand so that we're ready to hear them in church. St Jerome says that '**Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ**'.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAY AT 7:30PM.**

**MEETING FOR THE FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION
CANDIDATES/PARENTS TODAY,
26TH MARCH 2023 AT 2PM
IN THE LARGE HALL**

**PLEASE NOTE:
PALM SUNDAY 2ND APRIL 2023 IS AN
"EVENT DAY" THEREFORE PLEASE
DO NOT PARK IN THE STREET
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH.**

Thank you.

We are also looking for volunteers to prepare and serve Tea/Coffee/Sandwiches to the Homeless from the Friary **one day per week**. Please phone the Parish Office - Kathleen – 020 8534 1964.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION
REMINDER:**

We require the minimum of **6 month's notice** for Marriage Preparation at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Thank you.

**MEETING FOR THE CONFIRMATION
CANDIDATES ON FRIDAY,
31ST MARCH 2023 AT 7PM
IN THE LARGE HALL**

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2023/24

These are available at back of Church today
Please continue to use your current envelopes until the new ones start. Envelopes can only be identified by your number. If uncertain of your Gift Aid number, a Steward will be happy to help you. Gift Aiders with a current number **above 200** have been given a new lower number.
A huge thank you from the Finance Committee for your continued support of the parish.

**THE FINAL "NIGHTSHELTER"
WILL TAKE PLACE THIS WEDNESDAY
29TH MARCH IN THE LARGE HALL.
Special thanks to our volunteers who made
this project such a success.**

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