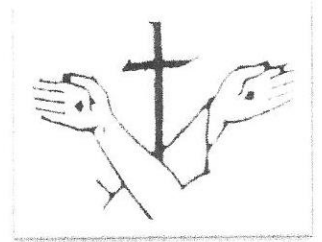




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Si"



## **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

### **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The journey of faith requires us to be open to the Lord, to hear his call. We come together in a spirit of trust, being prepared to listen, and sometimes to be surprised and even amazed by God. Jesus has revealed himself to the world as both human and divine; to fully understand this we need not to be afraid or fearful but simply to trust him.

#### **Today's Readings**

**Genesis 12:1-4:** When God calls Abram, it is a life-changing moment, for he is asked to leave everything that he knows.

**Response to the Psalm:** May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

**2 Timothy 1:8-10:** Paul tells Timothy that Jesus brings us the Good News, but following him can come at a price.

**Matthew 17:1-9:** The wondrous sight of Christ in glory also inspires fear in the apostles.

**"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him"**



When Moses renewed the law that he received on Mt. Sinai, a cloud covered the mountain symbolizing God's presence. After forty days and nights, Moses' face had "become radiant while he conversed with the Lord" On Mt. Tabor, at the Transfiguration, a cloud enveloped Jesus and his three companions: Peter, James and John. Jesus became radiant in his "transfiguration" (metamorphosis, a change in outward appearance). Appearing alongside Jesus was Moses the great lawgiver, and Elijah the prophet. Israel had disobeyed God's law and failed to heed the prophet's message. Jesus was God's "beloved Son," the fulfilment of the law and the Prophets. Like Moses the people were commanded to "listen" to Jesus. When the vision was over, the disciples beheld only Jesus.

*His face shone like the sun*

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

10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 – CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES MEETING 7PM IN THE LARGE HALL.

12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 – HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES MEETING 2PM IN THE CHURCH.

17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 – ST PATRICKS DAY. 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2023 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE OLYMPIC PARK

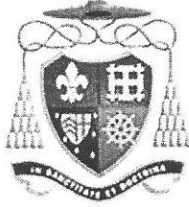
AT 11:30. 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL – ALTAR SERVERS MEETING -1PM IN THE CHURCH. 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2023 – PALM SUNDAY.

9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 – EASTER SUNDAY. FROM 10<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## ST. BONAVENTURE'S SCHOOL



**“A place of Nurture...about Love and Learning”.**

Please see the recent YouTube video produced to celebrate

**OFSTED 2023 Outstanding Report.**

### “WALK WITH ME”.

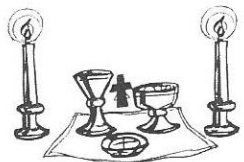
A Journey of Prayer for Lent 2023.

**Walk With Me** books are available at the Parish Office £1.00 each.

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.

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.

### THE MASS - 1 (of a series).



During Lent, by almsgiving, prayer and fasting we reflect on the **Kingly, Priestly and Prophetic** Mission given to us in Baptism, when we became members of Christ's body, the Church. We were called to share

his life to the fullest. Our **communion** with God and with one another is expressed most beautifully when we gather, in our Church, to celebrate the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Church's life. *This is the first of a series in the Newsletter to help us reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives.* Pope Francis describes our parishes as places of welcome, **“schools of service and generosity, with their doors always open: to people who are excluded as well as to people who are ‘included’”**— in other words open to **everyone**. Let us pray that our celebration of the Eucharist, here in Stratford, will lead us to be a place like that. in other words open to **everyone**. Let us pray that our celebration of the Eucharist, here in Stratford, will lead us to be a place like that.

Last Few Places on Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION REMINDER:

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

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 2023**  
The next meeting will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Large Hall.

**HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES 2023**  
The next meeting will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in the Church.

**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](mailto:stratford@friar.org)  
Website: [stfrancisassisiatratford.com](http://stfrancisassisiatratford.com)