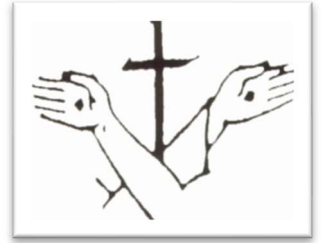




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Si"



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



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – 2nd April 2023

Our liturgy today turns quickly from triumphal acclamation to betrayal, desertion and death. Yet in the seeming failure, new life bursts forth. Through his own actions, Jesus invites us to place our complete trust and hope in the Father, who always comes to our help.

TODAYS READINGS.

Isaiah 50:4-7: Trust in God enables us to be eloquent in our witness.

Response to the Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Philippians 2:6-11: Humility allows God our Father to achieve his plan for us.

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66: The faithfulness and trust of Jesus are not in vain.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus prepared to eat the Passover with his disciples on "the first day of Unleavened Bread". This meal took place on the evening before the first day of Passover. During this time, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' own disciples, agreed to betray Jesus for the petty sum of "thirty pieces of silver", the amount of compensation paid for a wounded slave (Ex 21:32). During the ritual of the feast, Jesus gave his own body and blood to his disciples as food and drink. Then singing songs of praise (the Hallel Psalms 113-118), Jesus set out to the "Mount of Olives" - death lay ahead. Though Peter had affirmed his undying loyalty, Jesus declared that he would deny him three times before the cock crowed at dawn. In the garden of Gethsemane, meaning "olive press", Jesus prayed alone in agony to accept the suffering and death that awaited him. Jesus was arrested and his followers deserted him. In the morning, the religious leaders conferred about Jesus and handed him over to be tried by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.



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

9th APRIL 2023 – EASTER SUNDAY. FROM 10TH – 14TH APRIL 2023 – DAILY MASS WILL BE AT 10:00AM INSTEAD OF 12:15PM. 29th JULY 2023 – SEA SIDE COACH TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE – Watch for more info.

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.



Jesus was mocked, beaten, and led away to be executed between two criminals on Golgotha ("Place of a Skull" Calvary"

In English). On the cross, Jesus felt abandoned by everyone, even by God. When the Roman Centurion witnessed Jesus' death, he could not deny that "this man was God's Son!".



Maundy Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper "Now he showed how perfect his love was."

The 7.30pm Evening Mass commemorating the Last Supper has, as its theme, **service** and **sacrifice** - which

are aspects of the same mystery. We see Jesus as one who **serves**, who gives himself. Just as he gives himself in washing the feet of his disciples, so he gives himself in the bread and wine he takes, blesses and hands to them. And in the same way he will give himself on the cross tomorrow. All these acts of **self-giving** are the same act - that of the Son of Man who came 'not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'



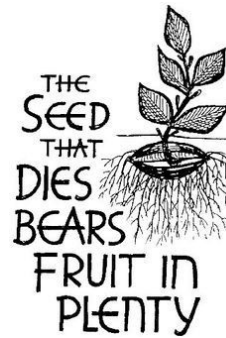
Good Friday - Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

Good Friday is such a powerful

day; we venerate the sign which is central to our faith - the cross, because on it the sinless one experienced the fullest emptying of himself, the fullest sharing in what it is to be human, to enter the darkness of death. It is the ultimate 'submission' (as the second reading says), by which the suffering by which the suffering servant "is made perfect". By this death, our high priest feels "our weaknesses with us", and leads each of us by the hand through our own death to the liberation we shall celebrate tomorrow. The cross is thus triumphant, a victory-sign

Good Friday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence

Catholics between the age of 18 and 59 fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. One full meatless meal is allowed on days of fast. Two other smaller meatless meals (snacks) are allowed. Drinking liquids, including milk and fruit juices, does not break the fast.



Holy Saturday is about emptiness. 'The cross is empty now, and still.' Where is the Lord? The heavens and the earth cry out with longing for the sinless one who is not to be found. We, the people of the sacraments, are denied the sacraments, to create in us the

same longing. We wait, as mourners beside a grave, unsettled, ill at ease, almost not knowing what to do with ourselves. The reader, like the other ministers of the Church, has only one things to do today: to pray through the emptiness of Holy Saturday. It must not be like any other day - there simply is no other day like it. All that happens in Church is the Liturgy of the Hours - Morning Prayer.

HOLY WEEK VIDEOS

Available free on

www.youtube.com/@thresholdsofhope2945

Introductions to the great mysteries that we will celebrate during Holy Week. Do have a look. Like. Share. Subscribe to the channel.

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

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