



St Francis of Assisi

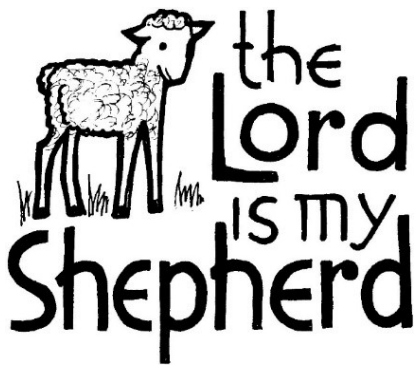
Parish Newsletter

“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart and to bring home those who have lost their way”.
St. Francis.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ



Fourth Sunday of Easter – 30th April 2023. **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

The Church observes the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**. We pray for vocations to the priesthood and to religious life, and for every calling that contributes to making God’s dream come true, of a human family united in love. Let us turn our thoughts to God, the creator of all things.

Today’s Readings:

Acts 2:14. 36-41: A call to repentance, and a radical new way of thinking and behaving. Peter declares that the Holy Spirit is promised to all whom God calls.

Response to the Psalm: **The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

1 Peter 2:20-25: Peter calls us to turn back “to the shepherd and guardian of our souls”. We are called to do what is right, even if it means suffering.

John 10:1-10: Jesus is the shepherd and the gate of the sheepfold, guarding and protecting the sheep.

“Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep”.

The figure of God as a shepherd who guides and protects the flock is taken from Israel's pastoral life. Sheep that belonged to various shepherds were brought together in a sheepfold at night. At daybreak, the watchman would open the gate. The sheep recognized the shepherd's voice and would follow no one else. The shepherd would walk ahead of his flock as they followed him to a place where they would be safe from thieves or predators who might come to “steal and slaughter and destroy”. Jesus is the “gate for the sheep”. Those who enter through him will be saved.



Dates for your Diary: **1ST MAY & 8TH MAY – MASSES AT 10AM. 1ST MAY 2023 – MASS FOR MIGRANTS, 12PM AT ST ANTONY OF PAUDUA CHURCH, FOREST GATE, LONDON E7 9BQ. MONDAY 8TH MAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM. 6TH MAY – 30TH JULY 2023– The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, exhibition exploring ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCISCANS IN STRATFORD: SAT. 17TH JUNE – PICNIC IN THE OLYMPIC PARK (Weather Permitting). SUN. 18TH JUNE REFRESHMENTS AFTER ALL MASSES IN THE LARGE HALL. WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE THANKSGIVING MASS AT 7:30PM. 29TH JULY 2023 – PARISH COACH TRIP TO THE SEA SIDE - 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.

MONDAY 1ST & MONDAY 8TH MAY 2023
ARE BANK HOLIDAYS,
THEREFORE MASS WILL BE AT
10AM ON THOSE DAYS.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS
12 Noon on Monday 1st May 2023 at
St Antony of Padua, Forest Gate.

21st June 1873 – June 2023
150 years of the Franciscans serving
the people of Stratford.

“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what
has fallen apart and to bring home those who have
lost their way”. St

Francis

Parish celebrations to mark
this Anniversary:

Saturday June 17: Picnic in the Olympic Park (weather
permitting). **Sunday June 18:** Refreshments in the
Large Hall, after all Masses. **Wednesday June 21:**
Thanksgiving Mass at 7:30pm



At the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square.
Saint Francis of Assisi 6 May – 30 July.
Ground Floor Galleries

The first major UK art exhibition to explore
Saint Francis of Assisi: his life and his
legacy. This special exhibition presents the art and
imagery of Saint Francis (1182–1226) from the 13th
century to today. This exhibition looks at why this saint
is a figure of enormous relevance to our time due to his
spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love of
God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for
peace, and his openness to dialogue with other religions.

This exhibition occurs during the time when
we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the
Franciscans coming to Stratford
(21 June 1873).

THE EXHIBITION IS FREE! 6 May – 30 July 2023
Open daily 10am–6pm. Friday until 9pm

MARRIAGE BANNS:

Notice of Wedding:
PABLO RODRIGUEZ-POMARES

&

MARIA VISAGGIO

Pablo and Maria will be getting married on
17th July 2023 in Italy.

Please keep them both in your prayers.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Aged 18-40, single Catholic, discerning your calling in
life? Ever thought of a religious vocation for religious
life and/or priestly life, perhaps as a Franciscan? Why
not look at our website, <http://www.friar.org> and/or
speak to one of the friars about it? Please also contact
Br Dónal ofm (Franciscan Vocations contact) via email:
brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk?

Deanery Formation Days

1. Lectors and
2. Ministers of Communion.

Readers Formation Day;

Saturday 17th June Our Lady of Walsingham,
Custom House:
10am to 4pm.

Ministers of Communion

Formation Day:
Saturday June 24th
St Francis of Assisi, Stratford:
10am to 4pm.

“An intimate friendship with Christ.”

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE **EASTER TALKS AT STRATFORD**

explore what it means to have
an intimate friendship with Christ.

Wednesdays 10th, 17th & 24th May 7.30 - 9pm
at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1BJ.
First talk, ***“Calling on the name of Jesus,”***
by Fr Martin Boland,
Dean of Brentwood Cathedral.

A warm welcome.

We are most grateful to the
Brentwood Diocesan Vicariate for Adult Formation
For reaching out, with these three talks,
to the London area of the Diocese.

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: Saturday: 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

Fr Yusuf Bagh, 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

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