



# St Francis of Assisi

## Parish Newsletter

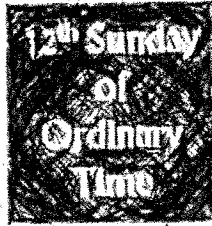
*"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart and to bring home those who have lost the way".*

*St. Francis*



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

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ



### **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Our Lord teaches us not to be afraid; he reminds us that God our Father watches over us with a tender love. The Lord has created us to live in goodness and in truth.

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

**Jeremiah 20:10-13:** The prophet lives in fear of his foes and calls on God's help.

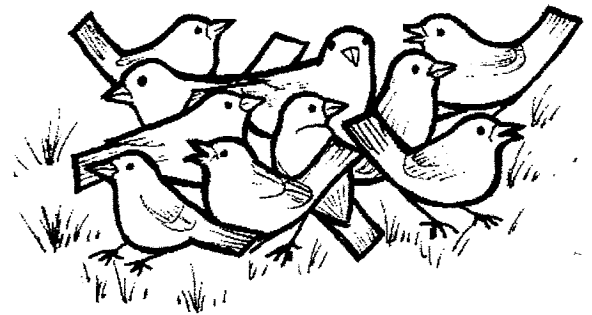
**Response to the Psalm:** **In your great love, answer me, O Lord.**

**Romans 5:12-15:** Adam's fall is redeemed by the life of Jesus.

**Matthew 10:26-33:** We are worth hundreds of sparrows.

**"Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows"**

Jesus instructed his twelve apostles to be courageous as they shared his mission of announcing God's reign. Despite the coming darkness and opposition, they should be fearless in proclaiming the light and truth of the gospel. Fear of persecution and death should not deter them. They should be more afraid of the evil one who could lead them to eternal destruction. Jesus encouraged his followers by reminding them of their worth before God. Sparrows were eaten by the poor: they were the cheapest of all the birds. If God cared



for these tiny birds how much more were God's children valued? No ill-treatment on earth could compare with the ultimate fate of one who had been guilty of infidelity to God. If the apostles remained faithful to their witness, Jesus would testify to their fidelity at the final judgment.

**Dates for your Diary:** **NOW UNTIL 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023** – The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, exhibition exploring **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023** – **BI-ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY AT 11:30AM.**

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 earthquakes.

### ORDINARY TIME

is called "ordinary" because the weeks are numbered. Ordinary Time is in fact the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ There are two periods of Ordinary Time. These vary depending upon when Easter falls in each particular year. The total number of weeks of Ordinary Time in any given year is 33 or 34.

### Uniform for St Bonaventure's

We are looking for any unused school uniform to give to current students. If you have any of the following items in **good** condition, they would be much appreciated. Black or brown school blazers, black or brown v neck jumpers, white shirts, black school trousers, school shoes, ties or school PE kit - these should be for boys aged 11 to 16. These can be dropped at the school reception on Boleyn Road or to the Parish Office. Thank you in advance

**The seven Parishes of the Newham Deanery** are printing an attractive leaflet giving all the Mass times in the seven Parishes of the Deanery. **We're** responsible for the distribution to every Hotel and every household in St Francis Parish (E15, E20 and parts of E11). If you can help with this, you will have the backing of the Priests, the Parish Office and all the Mass-goers here in St Francis. Please talk to us after Mass – or leave your details with the Parish Office.

### St Francis at National Gallery

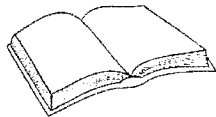
Major Exhibition

6 May to 30 July

10am to 6pm

FREE

*Well worth a visit!*



**New Book:** first of a series for Catholic secondary education. **"Source to Summit"** published by the Oxford University Press. Endorsed by the CES (Catholic Education Service). This is the first of a series in parallel with the new Catholic Education Directory launched in January this year. Edited by Mr Andy Lewis, Deputy Head of St Bonaventure's, Forest Gate.



**Ukrainian  
Greek Catholic  
Church**

is, this Sunday, rejoicing in one year of celebrating Mass at St Francis Church.

The Ukrainian Church in Britain has also decided to move from the Julian Calendar so that the Major Feasts will, in future correspond with ours.

### JOURNEY OF FAITH

Thinking of becoming a Catholic or wishing to refresh your faith, then you are invited to an Introductory Meeting on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from 7pm to 8pm in The Friary**. If you know anyone who might be interested, please invite them along.

### CRIB DONATIONS –

#### **BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDRENS SOCIETY:**

The BCCS wrote to acknowledge receipt of our donations totalling **£1066.30**. "Please pass on our grateful thanks to your parish community for continuing to take an interest in our work, responding to our need and supporting us in our endeavours".

### TALK ON THE OUR FATHER

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy will give a short talk entitled 'The Prayer of Prayers: An exploration of the Our Father'. The talk is free of charge, and tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 pm. Ample free parking, and easy access on the Elizabeth Line. The talk is available also by live stream on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) No booking necessary.

### THANK YOU

We wish to thank all our Parishioners, and everyone who helped and contributed toward our 150 Year Anniversary Celebration of The Franciscans in Stratford.

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

Tel: 0208 534 1964 Email: [stratford@friar.org](mailto:stratford@friar.org)

Website: [stfrancisassistratford.com](http://stfrancisassistratford.com)