



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

PENTECOST SUNDAY – 28th May 2023.

Today we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift that every Christian receives when they are baptised.



Today's Readings:

Acts 2:1-11: The Holy Spirit is poured out on the disciples of Jesus. This is the final act in the Easter mystery, which is now complete.

Response to the Psalm: Send forth your spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.

1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13: The apostle Paul reflects on the gifts of the Spirit in the lives of believers and encourages us to play our part, whatever that may be, in building up the life of our community.

John 20:19-23: The risen Jesus makes himself present to his disciples and commissions them to carry on his work.

"He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"

The great harvest that Jesus promised (Lk 10:2) had begun at Pentecost, which the Jews dedicated to the gathering and offering of the first fruits (Hb *Shavu'ot*, 50 days after Passover). The Christian feast of Pentecost, which occurs 50 days after Easter, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. In John's Gospel, the resurrection, ascension, and the descent of the Spirit occurred on the same Easter Sunday. It is most likely that the disciples were gathered in the upper room where the Last Supper had been held. But they were fearful that the emissaries of the Sanhedrin would come to arrest them. Upon seeing the Risen Lord, the disciples were overjoyed. Just as the breath of God created Adam, the first human being. Jesus breathed forth the Spirit creating the new people of God, the Church. Empowered by the Spirit, Jesus' disciples were sent forth to bring peace through the reconciliation of sinners. Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity, but more specifically, he is the love shared by the Father and the Son. "Come, Holy Spirit!" is the fundamental prayer of the Church -- in success or failure, whether you're young or old, rich or poor..



Dates for your Diary: **NOW UNTIL 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) MEET UP AT 12 NOON AT THE TIMBERLODGE CAFÉ. SUN. 18th JUNE - REFRESHMENTS AFTER ALL MASSES IN THE LARGE HALL. WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE THANKSGIVING MASS – 7PM. 10th JULY 2023 – BI-ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS AT ST PATRICKS CEMETERY, LEYTON AT 11:30AM. 29th JULY 2023 – PARISH COACH TRIP TO THE SEA SIDE - WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE – 29TH July £10 per person – see newsletter for full details.**

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.



The following Candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 28th May 2023.

Maria Steffi Benke
Cyrus Harewood
James Ledda
George Lukoda
Natan Miron
Karen Priscilla Nakandi
Andrew Rabuya
Kristen Rosario

Zara Erandio
Osayamen Igiehon
Jeremy Ledda
ShalomMbabazi
Ilda Baseka Mukonde
Shayne Nsereko Parma
Philip Rajtar
Beverly Vaz

MONDAY 29TH MAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY
MASS WILL BE AT 10am –
NO 12:15pm MASS.

21st June 1873 – June 2023

150 years of the Franciscans serving the people of Stratford.

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St Francis

Parish celebrations to mark this Anniversary:

Saturday June 17: Picnic in the Olympic Park (weather permitting) - meet at the Timberlodge Café in the Olympic Park at 12 noon.

Sunday June 18: Refreshments in the Large Hall, after all Masses.

Wednesday June 21: Thanksgiving Mass 7pm, followed by a reception in the Large Hall.



The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost is called the birth of the universal Church. Through the Spirit, the Church realises her call to preach the Gospel of Christ to the whole world. The double Alleluia at the end of Mass today shows that the Easter Season has

been brought to a close. The Easter Candle (Paschal Candle) is extinguished and moved near the Baptism Font. The 90 Days of Lent (40 days) and Easter (50 days) are over. Our call to Mission continues.

**BUBBLY CLUB
PARISH SEASIDE COACH TRIP.**



SATURDAY 29TH JULY

**Coach trip to Walton on the Naze.
Saturday 29 July.**

Coach from Church at 9.30am.

Return: leave Walton at 4.30pm.

Cost £10 per adult & £5 per child.

Children under 2 (and not occupying a seat): free.

A place can only be secured on payment of ticket money. We cannot accept payment on the day, so please book early to secure your place.

To secure Ticket: CONTACT: Sarah McKiernan 07778 868827. A lively, fun outing.

St Francis at National Gallery

Major Exhibition
6 May to 30 July
10am to 6pm

FREE

Well worth a visit!

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

Website: stfrancisassisistratford.com