



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

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 2nd July 2023

We are called to take up our cross and follow Christ. We gather as the body of Christ, walking the way of the cross and rejoicing in the true freedom of the children of God. Jesus invites us to let go of everything that keeps us from love, and to open ourselves to his mercy.

Today's Readings:

2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16: The prophet Elisha receives hospitality and repays it with the promise of new life.

Response to the Psalm: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Romans 6:3-4. 8-11: By baptism, we come to share in the divine life of Christ.

Matthew 10:37-42: To be worthy of Christ, we must take up our cross and follow him.

"Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me"

Jesus preached a message of total renunciation for the sake of the kingdom. Nothing or no one must deter them from their dedication to Christ and his mission. Jesus knew that not everyone would accept the gospel his followers proclaimed. Even members of their families might be their adversaries. Those who wished to follow in Jesus' footsteps must be willing to put the gospel before all else, even their own lives. If they chose this difficult path, they could be sure that they would share Jesus' destiny of persecution and suffering. Those who refused to "take up the cross" and follow him were "not worthy" of being his disciples. Like the prophets of old they must be prepared to suffer for speaking God's word. Jesus' disciples were Christian "prophets" who spoke God's saving message. Whoever offered hospitality to these messengers of God received Jesus himself and God who sent him, and they would be rewarded for their kindness.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: NOW UNTIL 30TH JULY 2023– The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, exhibition exploring ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. 10TH JULY 2023 – BI-ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY AT 11:30AM. WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY 2023 – TALK ON THE "OUR FATHER" – 7pm – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST, GIDEA PARK (RM2 6DH). SATURDAY 29TH JULY 2023 - COACH TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE. THE COACH LEAVES THE CHURCH AT 9:30AM, AND LEAVES WALTON AT 4:30PM. MONDAY 29TH AUGUST 2023 – BANK HOLIDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM – NO 12:15 MASS.

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.

Retiring Collection: Peter's Pence.

Annual retiring collection
Sunday after SS Peter & Paul.
Provides financial support to the Holy See
for its charitable endeavours around the world.
Used for initiatives to support
the poor and provide emergency relief.

St Francis at National Gallery

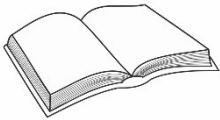
Major Exhibition
6 May to 30 July
10am to 6pm
FREE
Well worth a visit

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.

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.

TALK ON THE OUR FATHER



On **Wednesday 12th 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 No booking necessary.

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

COACH TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE

NAZE
SATURDAY
29TH JULY



Reminder to all those who have booked their seats:
The coach leaves the Church at 9.30am
The coach leaves Walton-on-the-Naze at 4.30pm.

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.

Feast of St Thomas. Apostle
Monday 3 July.

'My Lord and my God!'

Born in Galilee, at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost, Thomas went to evangelise the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the faith to the Malabar Coast. A large number of people there still call themselves "Christians of Saint Thomas." Thomas shed his blood for his Master speared to death at a place called Calamine.

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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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Website: stfrancisassisistratford.com

REQUIEM MASS

Biannual Concelebrated Requiem Mass
St Patrick's Cemetery, Leytonstone
Monday 10 July 11.30am.

Pray for our beloved dead.

Franciscans

