



# 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

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**



Faith is a two-way relationship. Human beings yearn for God, and God our Father longs for us to turn back to him. We are free, either to answer that call, or to turn away. We've got both the freedom and the responsibility to choose the Christian life. Jesus uses parables/stories to explain his teaching, urging us to forget the cares of this world and listen and understand God's calling.

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

**Isaiah 55:10-11:**

The word of the Lord is like rain falling on the earth, enabling it to bear fruit.

**Response to the Psalm: Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.**

**Romans 8:18-23:**

Humanity, like creation, is waiting for God to set it free.

**Matthew 13:1-23:**

People are like the places where seeds fall – their faith will determine whether there is a harvest of God's riches

**"A sower went out to sow"**

**"But the seed sown on rich soil**

**is the one who hears the word and understands it"**

A parable (Hebrew, mashal) is an implied comparison, that's not always obvious. Once perceived it sheds new light on the subject. A parable designates a wide variety of literary forms: axioms, proverbs, similitudes, and allegories. Jesus' parables were mostly stories that invited the hearer to search for the meaning of the truths he was teaching. Jesus was a wise teacher who used examples from everyday life to illustrate the deep mysteries of God's reign. In the parable of the sower, the seed of God's word was sown on unproductive soil. Most of the effort was wasted because many hearts were not prepared to understand the meaning of Jesus' message. Jesus told his disciples that they were blessed because they had been given the grace to comprehend his words. They must persevere in their task of proclaiming God's reign no matter how few people accepted their message or rewarded them for their work. Jesus assured them of their ultimate success, comparing it to the enormous crop that would be produced by their labours. Ten times would have been more than any farmer would have expected, but thirty times, sixty times, and one hundred times were more than they could ever imagine!



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 – JOURNEY OF FAITH MEETING – 7pm IN THE FRIARY.**

**FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2023 – FUNERAL MASS – MR HUGH MURRAY, R.I.P.**

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 - COACH TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE. THE COACH LEAVES THE CHURCH AT 9:30AM, AND LEAVES WALTON AT 4:30PM. 1<sup>ST</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 – WORLD YOUTH DAY IN LISBON.**

**5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST – WORLD YOUTH DAY AT HOME – SEE POSTER AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH & THE NEWSLETTER.**

**MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 – BANK HOLIDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM – NO 12:15 MASS.**

**MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 – CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS FOR HOLY COMMUNION 2024.**

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.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

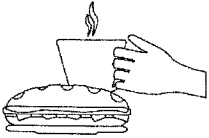
Application Forms available at the back of the Church, on the Website, and from the Parish Office.

### CLOSING DATE

**FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS  
MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023.**

## VOLUNTEERS FROM THE PARISH

### URGENTLY REQUIRED



Do you have one morning a week free from 9:00am to 11:30am, any weekday morning, to prepare and serve tea/coffee & sandwiches to the Homeless?

We are particularly looking for someone on Thursday and/or Friday but any day you can attend would be great. Please contact Kathleen at the Parish Office with your details - 020 8534 1964 - 9:30am to 3pm. Thank you for your help.

**World Youth Day at Home:** World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join **WYD in London** run by the Religious of the Assumption - a day celebration on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023** from 11am-5pm in the church by **Leicester Square**.

Programme: music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass, bringing together a young community of different nationalities in one faith! Venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. **To register** a group or individually, fill in the form: [//bit.ly/wydlondon](http://bit.ly/wydlondon)

**Cook needed** by the Friars. 8/10 hours (negotiable) £11.95 an hour.

## Walton-on-Naze - Coach trip 29 July.

**The coach is full.** For those who have secured a place please note: **The coach will leave from St Francis Church at 09.30 am. Please be on time.**

There is no toilet on the coach as it is a relatively short journey. The Church toilet will be open from 09.00 am to allow anyone to use the facility before we start off.

If required, the coach driver will stop on the way if anyone needs another toilet stop. Please note this will be for use of toilet only and not to buy refreshments so as not to delay arrival in Walton. There will be plenty of opportunity to buy refreshments when we arrive.

**The coach will leave Walton at 4.30 pm for return to the church.** If anything is unclear please call Sarah on 07778 868827. Looking forward to seeing you all on 29th.

## JOURNEY OF FAITH

Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7pm in Friary.  
Everyone welcome

## Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, to Walsingham Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August, led by

**Archbishop Kevin McDonald.**

For details see the poster at the back of the Church on the noticeboard & on the Parish Website, or go to [www.prolifepilgrimage.org](http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org). Please join in the 'great prayer for life' asked for by Pope Saint John Paul II.

## 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.

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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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