



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

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1B

SUNDAY CYCLE: YEAR A (Matthew)

WEEKDAYS CYCLE: YEAR 1



The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 20th August 2023

We are called to celebrate God’s presence among us in the person of Jesus Christ. May we be open to his loving presence in everyone we meet. With the Lord there is mercy and plentiful redemption.

Today’s Readings:

Isaiah 56:1. 6-7: The Lord will bring all peoples to his holy mountain.

Response to the Psalm:

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32:

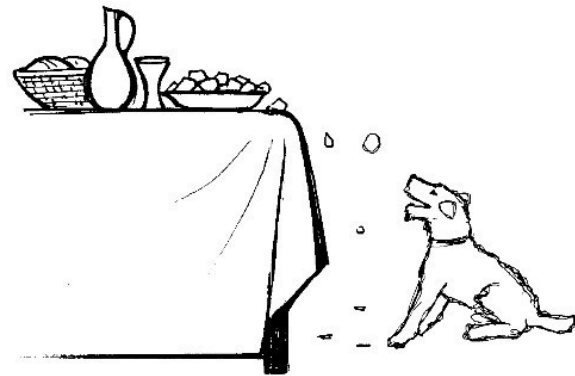
God will show mercy to all humankind.

Matthew 15:21-28:

Jesus responds to the great faith of a Canaanite woman.

“My mission is only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”

Although Matthew emphasised Jesus' mission as first and foremost to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel”), he intended to show that God's call had widened to include everyone. In anticipation of the Church's mission to the Gentiles, Matthew showed Jesus breaking with his custom of ministering only to his own people. In the pagan area of Phoenicia, Jesus met a woman whose faith contrasted with that of the Pharisees and Scribes who opposed Jesus. Matthew called her a Canaanite to remind his readers that these people had occupied the Promised Land before the Hebrew people settled in it. The woman addressed Jesus by the messianic titles “Lord” and “Son of God” as she pleaded with him to heal her tormented daughter. The disciples tried to get rid of her, but the woman persisted, saying she was willing to take the crumbs that fell from the



master's table. Impressed by this woman's great faith, Jesus healed her daughter at that very moment. The Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christians (*Nostra Aetate*, “*In this Age of Ours*”) states: “The Church awaits that day, known to God alone, on which EVERYONE will address the Lord in a single voice and serve him with one accord”

Woman, you have great faith

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MONDAY 28TH AUGUST 2023 – BANK HOLIDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM – NO 12:15 MASS.

MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023 – CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS FOR HOLY COMMUNION 2024.

SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2023 – “AUTUMN BALL”/INTERNATIONAL NIGHT – Details to follow.

29TH SEPTEMBER TO 6TH OCTOBER 2023 – JUMBULANCE – PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.

MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2023 – CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS FOR CONFIRMATION 2024.

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023 – COACH TRIP TO ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET & DICKENS PARADE – Details to follow.

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

Forms available at back of Church, on Website and from Parish Office. **CLOSING DATE: Monday 18th September 2023.**

Pope dreams of peace at a 'grace-filled' World Youth Day

MORE THAN 1.5 million people attended the closing Mass of World Youth Day in Lisbon's Tejo Park on 6 August. Among them were four young people representing St Francis Stratford. Much of the crowd had arrived in the park the previous evening for a vigil led by the Pope that included music, dance, Eucharistic adoration and a screening of the Laudato si' film, The Letter. Pope Francis concelebrated with 30 cardinals, 700 bishops and 10,000 priests (including priests from our Diocese). Francis linked the experience of the young people at World Youth Day to Jesus' **Transfiguration**, "**be radiant in your youthfulness**". "In the wake of these grace-filled days, what will we take back with us as we 'come down from the mountain' to resume our daily lives?" "shine, listen and be unafraid: the Church, the world, need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain!"

The Pope announced a Jubilee in Rome in 2025, and the next World Youth Day in Seoul in 2027.

Newham Deanery are wanting to employ **A youth Coordinator** to build and develop a team in the Seven Parishes of Newham. 35 flexible hours per week; £25,000 p/a, fixed 2-year contract. Start: early October 2023. Send CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to frdanielkelly@bredt.org. Closing date: 11 September; interviews – week commencing 18 September 2023.

St Bartholomew, Apostle.

Thursday 24th August.

"Philip said to him, 'Come and see'" Nathanael (called "Bartholomew") was sceptical when Philip told him that Jesus was the promised Messiah. The scriptures said that the Messiah would come from David's city, Bethlehem in Judah, not from a lowly place like Nazareth in Galilee. Philip invited Nathanael to come and judge for himself. Jesus overcame Nathanael's doubts by his supernatural knowledge: "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree". Jesus said that Nathanael was "without guile", a "true Israelite". Even though Jacob was a man of deception, he witnessed angels ascending and descending to heaven. Nathanael would see even greater things - the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In John's Gospel, Bartholomew is not mentioned in the list of the Apostles. In the other gospels, Nathanael is not mentioned, but Bartholomew is in the place after Philip. Scripture scholars believe Bartholomew is Nathanael. Nathanael bar Tolomai (or Bartholomew) son of Tolomai, probably a close friend of Philip. His name is always mentioned next to Philip, and it was Philip who brought Bartholomew to Jesus. He preached in Asia Minor, Ethiopia, India, and Armenia. Tradition says he was flayed and beheaded there.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

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

CLOSING DATE: Monday 2nd October 2023.

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

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Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9:30am - 3pm

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