



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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 10th September 2023

As followers of Christ, we are responsible not only for our journey of faith, but for that of our brothers and sisters as well.

Today's Readings:

Romans: 13:8-10: Love is the answer to everything.

Response to the Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts’.

Matthew 18:15-20: Jesus teaches us to try to resolve our differences, knowing that he is always among us.
Ezekiel 33:7-9 We can save one another's lives of faith.

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”.

The Jews were gathered together by God to form a worshipping and believing community (*Hebrew, 'Qahal Yahweh'*). Christians were also called to be the people of God, the Church. Matthew is the only evangelist to use the Greek term *ekklesia*, meaning “church” in his gospel. In the first instance, the word referred to how the church should correct sinners in the community. Jesus wanted the future leaders of the church to learn how to deal with persistent sinners. If a Christian attempted to correct another member of the community who had sinned against him, and that person remained unrepentant, additional members of the community were to be brought in to settle the matter. If the person continued to be obstinate, the case should be referred to the whole “church.” This divine authority to “loose and bind” had been assigned to Peter and was now given to the church. The church should never see people as hopeless sinners, but always treat those who had fallen with kindness and love as Jesus did. Christ is eternally present in the Christian community in which the power of united prayer is effective.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2023 – “AUTUMN BALL”/INTERNATIONAL NIGHT – See Poster at the back of the Church.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

As a result of the Chapter, Fr Patrick will be moving to Woodford next week as Guardian. At least for the moment, the other three Friars will remain at Stratford.

Apostolic Visit to Mongolia

Pope Francis this week visited the Republic of Mongolia, one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world, with just five people per square mile. 31 August to 4 September 2023. Mongolia is situated between Russia and China. There are only about 1450 Catholics there (up from 136 in 2003. In 2003, a missionary from the Philippines was named Mongolia's first Catholic bishop. Let us pray for our fellow-Catholics in Mongolia.

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

is a day established by Pope Francis to encourage the Catholic community and all Christians to pray for our common home, the Earth. It is celebrated on 1 **September** every year and marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, which ends on 4 October with the feast of Saint Francis.

This Day of Prayer is in unity with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who began a similar day of prayer for the Orthodox Church in 1989.

Season of Creation

(1 September to 4 October – the Feast of St Francis).

The theme of the Season of Creation for 2023 is **“Let Justice and Peace Flow”**

The Prophet Amos cries out *“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”* (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological concerns.

We will have a prayer after each Mass during this ‘Season of Creation’.

It is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer.

SEASON OF CREATION



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

1stSeptember to 4th October 2023
“Laudato Si, mi signore”

Praise be to you, my Lord.
In the words of this beautiful canticle St Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

Pope Francis

After each Mass, we will pray during this time dedicated to the Season of Creation. We will say a final prayer.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

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

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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