



# 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 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 17th September 2023**

In the Our Father we pray, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us". Today's readings show us the gift of God's abundant gift of mercy and invite us to mirror this in our lives by forgiving others.

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

**Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7:** Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.



**Response to the Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

**Romans 14:7-9:** The life and death of each of us has its influence on others.

**Matthew 18:21-35:** Peter asks how many times he must forgive someone who wrongs him. Jesus replies, "Not seven, but ... seventy-seven times".

**"[Peter asked] how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"**

**Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times"..**



Jesus shared his authority with his apostles, but he told them that power must be tempered by mercy and forgiveness. As the leader of the community, Peter asked how often he was required to forgive a fellow member. Peter thought seven was a generous response. Jesus' response to forgive someone "seventy-seven times" must have amazed Peter. Four hundred and ninety is the numerical value of the biblical Hebrew word tamim, which

means complete, perfect, or finished. A person who can't forgive will always live an imperfect, and incomplete life that's lacks a true understanding that forgiveness must be unlimited. He illustrated this with a parable in which a master forgave his servant a staggering debt. Yet the same servant refused to forgive a fellow servant a much smaller amount owed him. When the master heard this, he had his hard-hearted servant tortured until he agreed to pay back the debt. Can we expect mercy at the final judgment if we have not forgiven the offenses of others?



#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

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

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – NO 12:15 MASS.**

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – JOURNEY OF FAITH – 7pm IN THE FRIARY.**

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 – "AUTUMN BALL"/INTERNATIONAL NIGHT – See Poster at the back of the Church.**

**29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – JUMBULANCE – PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.**

**MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS FOR CONFIRMATION 2024.**

**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 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, Syria & Morocco, following the devastating earthquakes, also, the people of Libya who suffered floods recently.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
**NO 12:15 MASS ON**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA** are having their regular monthly meeting on **20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30pm** in the Large Hall, particularly for all those who expressed an interest in joining the KSC recently.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, or, wishing to explore their Faith, the Journey of Faith meeting is on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm at the Friary.**

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**INTERNATIONAL NIGHT/  
AUTUMN BALL**  
**23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 7PM**  
**‘TIL LATE**  
**IN THE LARGE HALL.**

The “Bubbly” Club & the Knights of St Columba are hosting a dance on the above date – everyone is welcome!

There will be music, and a raffle.  
Food and soft drinks are included in the price.  
Please bring your own alcoholic drinks.  
Tickets are available after all the Masses –  
Adults £12, Children (under 10 years old) £5. .

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 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**

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