



# 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 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

There are a lot of divisions in our world today, not least between rich and poor, between people who have a daily struggle to make ends meet and people who are comparatively well off. The Gospel tells us that our God is generous, and has a special care for the ones who are in most need.

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

**Isaiah 55:6-9:** God is nearby and can be found.

**Response to the Psalm: The Lord is close to all who call Him.**

**Philippians 1:20-24. 27:** Christ is in our living and dying, present to us beyond the grave and for all eternity.

**Matthew 20:1-16:** The landowner practised positive discrimination towards the latecomers and less able workers.

**"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last"**

The grape harvest in Israel ripened towards the end of September and was soon followed by the rains. If the harvest had not been gathered in before the rain came, it would have been ruined. Any worker was welcome, even if he could give only an hour's work. The men who stood in the marketplace were waiting for work. These men were hired labourers and were at the mercy of chance employment. The pay was one denarius, the normal day's wage for a working man. Jesus told his disciples a parable about justice in which God is compared to a landowner who hired workers for his vineyard. The first ones to respond were promised the expected day's wages. Those who came later were promised "what is just". When it was time to pay the workers, the owner began with the last and paid them a full day's wages. When those who worked all day were paid the same amount, they complained that they had been treated unfairly. The vineyard owner pointed out to them that he had done them no injustice. This parable of Jesus emphasises two great truths. First, the right of every person to work and to earn a living wage. And secondly, that what God gives is not pay, but a gift; it is not a reward, but a grace offered from the goodness of God's heart.



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

**27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 – 12:15 WILL BE A "REQUIEM MASS" FOR LUCINDA MOONA, R.I.P.**

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

**TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – TRANSITUS 7PM.**

**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – FEAST OF ST FRANCIS – MASSES AT 12:15 PM & 7:30 PM.**

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.

## **REQUIEM/FUNERAL MASS**

12:15pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Deceased: Lucinda Moona, R.I.P.

## **FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 – Transitus 7pm – a time of prayer and reflection on the death of St Francis. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Mass at 12:15pm, and 7:30pm followed by a Reception in the Large Hall.

## **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.*

## **THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

Is something telling you to go deeper? Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic? Or are you thinking of coming back to Church? Or have you questions about the faith you’d like to raise in an informal atmosphere? Whatever questions you have, come along to the Parish RCIA and learn more about being a Catholic. Next meeting: **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm at the Friary.**

## **SEASON OF CREATION**

1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

“Laudato Si, mi signore”



A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

## **Let Justice and Peace Flow**

Season of Creation 2023

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.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> 1891, Pope Leo XIII issued his encyclical **“Rerum Novarum”** (“on the Condition of Labour”), in other words the Church’s position on work in the modern age. The Encyclical applied the traditional teaching about the rights and duties of people possessing property and the whole question of the relationship between employer and employee, it addresses modern conditions. As the years go by, an increasing number of people look upon this encyclical of Leo XIII as the most effective statement on industrial relationships ever expressed.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024**

Forms available at back of Church, on Website and from Parish Office. **CLOSING DATE:**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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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