



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples the '64,000 dollar question-: "Who do you say I am?" It is a question we've all got to answer, not superficially as a knee-jerk response to what we have been taught by other people but deep down, in our hearts and minds and in the way we live our lives.

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

**Isaiah 22:19-23:** Should he open, no one shall close; should he close, no one shall open.



**Response to the Psalm: Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of Your hands.**

**Romans 11:33-36:** All that exists comes from the Lord.

**Matthew 16:13-20:** Peter's declaration of faith in Jesus, Jesus' promise to make him the rock on which He will build his church.

**"And I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock, I will build my Church ... ..and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."**

Jesus went to the region of Caesarea Philippi, about 20 miles north of the Sea of Galilee. This territory was ruled by Philip, a son of Herod the Great. Philip named the place after himself and in honour of the emperor of Rome. In this non-Jewish area, Jesus questioned his disciples as to how people understood his role and mission. They answered with the commonly held view that Jesus was a prophet like John the Baptist, Jeremiah or even Elijah. Jesus then asked them who they personally believed him to be. Simon Peter spoke up for the Twelve, proclaiming Jesus as the "Messiah, the Son of the living God".

Because Peter understood this revelation from God, Jesus gave him the "keys to the kingdom," a metaphor for the authority Peter would exercise in the Church (Ekklesia, the word used only here and in Mt 18:17). The name that Jesus conferred on Peter, "rock," indicated his role as the firm foundation upon which Jesus would establish his Church. Peter's strong faith enabled him to follow Jesus right up to his own death as a martyr.



*"and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven".*

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

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

**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 and Syria following the devastating earthquake.

## **BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY**

28<sup>th</sup> August '23 - Mass is at 10am –  
**NO 12:15 MASS.**

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024**

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

## **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**

**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 [fdanielkelly@bredt.org](mailto:fdanielkelly@bredt.org). Closing date: 11 September; interviews – week commencing 18 September 2023.

## **JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, or, wishing to explore their Faith, the new Journey of Faith meetings start on the 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm at the Friary.

## **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.

## **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.*

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**

**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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**Website: stfrancisassistratford.com**