



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 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 3rd September 2023

Today the prophet Jeremiah speaks of being ‘seduced’ by the Lord. We too gather today, drawn by the love that the Lord has for us. As we give thanks for that love, we recommit ourselves to the path of love and service.



Today’s Readings:

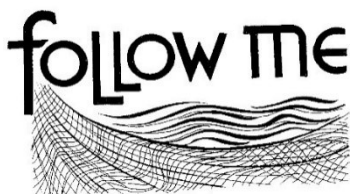
Jeremiah 20:7-9: Despite the hardships of his calling, Jeremiah allows himself to be seduced by God.

Response to the Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God

Romans 12:1-2: Paul encourages the Christians of Rome to model their lives on Christ.

Matthew 16:21-27: The paradox of the cross: this is the way to life.

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”.



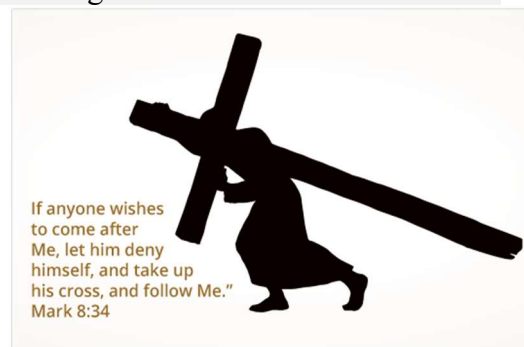
When Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus strictly commanded his followers to secrecy. The explanation for this ‘messianic secret’ is found in the popular understanding of the Messiah at the time of Jesus. The Messiah (Hebrew *Mashiach*, the “anointed one”) was expected to be a mighty ruler like David, a warrior king who would sweep the Romans from Israel and restore them to power. Jesus’ disciples had to learn the true meaning of ‘Messiah’

before they could preach. Jesus explained that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem where he would suffer and die, but that he would be raised up on the third day.

Peter recoiled at the idea of a **suffering** Messiah and blurted out, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you”.

Peter the “rock” allowed himself to become a “stumbling block” enabling Satan to impede God’s will. Peter was urging Jesus to do the very things that the tempter tried to make him do – to seek power without sacrifice. If Jesus’ disciples wanted to follow him, they had to get “behind” him, walking in his footsteps to Calvary.

The people who lived contrary to his teachings would lose the very life they were looking for. But the people who heard and obeyed his words, even at the cost of their earthly lives, would experience the fullness of life everlasting.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023 – JOURNEY OF FAITH – 7PM

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.

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.

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

1st September 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.**

JOURNEY OF FAITH

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

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT/ AUTUMN BALL 23RD 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 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

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