

# 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 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1st October 2023 2023**

We can always change. There is no value in merely talking about how we are going to do good. What matters is that we do it. The Lord is generous towards us. May we respond in kind.

A graphic with a yellow background and purple and green borders, containing the text "26th Sunday of Ordinary Time".

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
of Ordinary  
Time**

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

**Ezekiel 18:25-28:** It is right that we receive the just rewards of our actions, good or evil.

#### **Response to the Psalm: Remember your mercy, Lord.**

**Philippians 2:1-11:** In our minds we must be like Christ Jesus, who emptied himself that he might be raised by God in glory.

**Matthew 21:28-32:** We receive the reward of true righteousness.

**"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you".**

Jesus confronted the hypocritical religious leaders with a parable of two sons, one who gave lip service to his father and the other who repented of his disobedience.

The parable teaches us that promises can never take the place of performance. The son who said he would go, but did not, was like the religious leaders who claimed to be doing God's will but acted otherwise. The tax collectors and the prostitutes were those who said that they would go their own way and then take God's way. The religious authorities held the "tax collectors and prostitutes" in contempt because they did not obey God. Yet when these outcasts of society heard John's message of repentance, they reformed their lives. In contrast, the leaders of God's people stubbornly refused to believe in John's way of righteousness and did not change their lives. Because they rejected God's plan for salvation, they forfeited their place in God's reign. The ideal son is the one who accepts the father's orders with obedience and fully carries them out.



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

**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. AFTER 7:30 MASS, A RECEPTION IN THE LARGE HALL**

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY.**

**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.

## **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.

### **Saint Francis of Assisi.**



Francis, son of a rich cloth merchant, had a misspent youth. His search for change led him to the ancient church at San Damiano. While praying there, he heard Christ speak to him from the crucifix,

"Francis, repair my church." Francis assumed this meant the crumbling building he was in. Acting on impulse, he took fabric from his father's shop and sold it to get money to repair the church. His father dragged Francis before the bishop and in front of the whole town demanding that he return the money and renounce all rights as his heir. Francis not only gave back the money but stripped off the clothes his father had given him, and declared that from then on his true Father was God in heaven.

Francis took the Gospels as the rule of his life, and Jesus Christ as his example. He dressed in rough clothes and begged for his food. He visited hospitals, served the sick, cared for lepers, preached purity and peace, composed songs and hymns to God and nature, and regarded everyone as his brothers and sister. He began to attract followers, and in 1209, with a papal blessing, founded the Franciscans. In 1212 Clare of Assisi became his spiritual follower, which led to the founding of the Poor Clares. While in meditation on Mount Alvernia in the Apennines in September 1224, Francis received the stigmata, which periodically bled during the remaining two years of his life.

## **CONFIRMATION 2024**

Forms available at back of Church, on Website and from Parish Office. **CLOSING DATE: TOMORROW 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2023.**

## **URSULINE RED LETTER DAY** **13 OCTOBER 2023**

The Ursuline sisters joined the Roman Union in 1923. They will be celebrating this centenary on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October with Mass at St Antony's Forest Gate.

A book "**Roots and Shoots**" is a record of these past years and will be of interest to our parishioners. It can be purchased via the Ursuline website or direct from the Parish Office.

### **email**

[ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com](mailto:ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com) give name and address and donation of £12.50 via BACs to Account: Ursuline Provincialate Account No: 23135852 Sort No:16-00-15

Add your name to the narrative section when ordering by bank transfer.

### **OR**

write to Natasha Zammit Ursuline Convent 38 Grosvenor Road E7 8JA giving your name and address and enclose a cheque made payable to

**Ursuline Sisters..**

### **OR**

£10 from St Francis Parish Office.

## **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.**

**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** Parish Secretary:

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