

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time : We belong to God, but not like inanimate objects. We've got a choice. Belonging to God is belonging to God's creation in a way that allows God's creation to belong to us.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

We are all instruments of God, but not always willingly, so that we do not know the true meaning of our lives.

Response to the Psalm:

Give the Lord glory and power.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Sometimes we only appreciate the power of God's word in the lives of others who receive it. This is why converts will always give hope to the Church.

Matthew 22:15-21

Don't be afraid of tough questions. Every question has an answer from God. "**Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God**".

Jesus' opponents often questioned him on matters concerning religion, and his answers only served to increase his reputation. His enemies then shifted their questions to affairs of the state. Two groups tried to trap Jesus about the legitimacy of paying taxes to Rome. **The Herodians**, supporters of Rome's puppet-king Herod, favoured the tax, while **the Pharisees** objected to being subjected to a foreign power. Jesus' answers might involve him either with the Roman government, or with the great Sanhedrin. No matter how he responded, one or the other group would be dissatisfied. Jesus asked to see one of the Roman coins bearing the inscription: "Tiberius Caesar, Son of the Divine Augustus" (14-37 AD). Since his opponents were using the emperor's coins and

Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar



Give to God what belongs to God

participating in his economic system, they had already taken upon themselves the duty of paying taxes to the emperor. Jesus, the true Son of the August God, told his opponents to pay the tax. Money belonged to the temporal order, and its power was transitory. Jesus challenged his opponents to look at a deeper level. Had they paid their debt to God whose power was eternal?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2023 – BI-ANNUAL MASS FOR THE DEAD AT ST PATRICKS CEMETERY AT 11:30AM.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 25TH & 26TH NOVEMBER – WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY.

PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS DINNER – December 2023 – Details will be in the newsletter soon – watch this space!!

Pray for those who have died, and those whose Anniversaries occur around this time, also, please pray for the sick.

**Knights of St Columba –
Monthly Meeting.**

The monthly meeting of the KSC will be on **Sunday 22nd October 2023 at 1:30pm in the Large Hall.** This is to remind all Knights, also, those who expressed an interest in becoming a Knight, to attend.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

The first introductory meeting for all parents, guardians and children in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in 2024 will be on **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH** at 2pm in the Church. It is important to attend this first meeting. This meeting is for those who have completed the necessary application forms.

There will be a further meeting on Sunday November 19th beginning at 2pm in the Church.

**BI-ANNUAL MASS
FOR THE DEAD-
St Patricks Cemetery –
13th November 2023.**

The Bi-Annual Mass will take place on the above date at 11:30am.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please hand them to a priest.

***BINGO NIGHT**

The Knights of St Columba and the Bubbly Club are having a Bingo/ Curry Night on Saturday November 11th. Tickets on sale.

***Tickets for the coach trip to the Rochester Christmas Market in December have now all been sold.**

Pope Pius XI instituted World Mission Sunday in 1926. It calls us to a renewed commitment to our responsibility to spread the Gospel message. Since the Church is by her very nature missionary, evangelisation constitutes a duty and a right for every one of her members (cf. Vatican II: Lumen gentium). The Lord calls us to go beyond ourselves and to share with other people the blessings we've received, beginning with the gift of faith, which cannot be considered as a private privilege but has got to be seen as a gift to be shared with people who have not yet received it. Such activity will benefit faith itself: faith is strengthened when it is shared. (Pope John Paul II, 1992). Pray for all the work of evangelisation in the Church.

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
Fr Stephen Sciberras, OFM

Address: The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, E15 1NS.
Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9:30am - 3pm Parish Secretary:
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