

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 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 8th October 2023

Today we celebrate the importance of love and respect for God, for each other and for all God's creation. God is the Lord of all. Every day, we hear bad news on the media about deterioration of the natural world. May we learn to value God's wonderful creation.

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 5:1-7: The vineyard of the Lord is loved and tended by God.

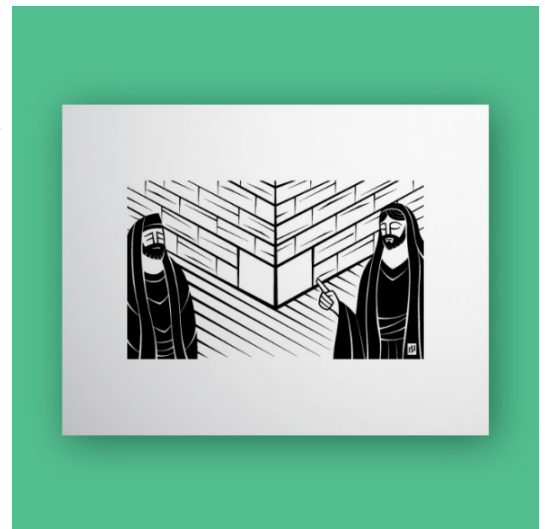
Response to the Psalm: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Philippians 4:6-9: The God of peace will be with those who are virtuous and who fill their minds with all that is good and pure.

Matthew 21:33-43: In this parable, a landowner leases his vineyard to tenants, but when he sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest owed to him they are beaten and killed. When the landowner sends his son, he too is killed.

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"

Jesus' parable of the vineyard recalled Isaiah's "Song of the Vineyard". In interpreting a parable, it is usually a mistake to treat it as an allegory, trying to find meaning in every single detail. But this case is different; the parable becomes an allegory. In the parable, the vineyard was the nation of Israel, and its owner was God. The tenants were the religious leaders of Israel, who were charged with the welfare of the nation. The messengers were the prophets who were sent by God and were rejected and often killed. The son was none other than Jesus himself, the Son of God. Prior to "vintage time," the coming of the Messiah, God sent his servants, the prophets, who were treated shamefully. When the vineyard owner sent his own son to collect the fruits of the harvest, he was "dragged outside the vineyard" and killed. Jesus solemnly asked what the landowner would do when he returned. Because the people rejected the one God sent, others would benefit from God's mercy and would yield a rich harvest.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER – URSULINE RED LETTER DAY.

WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER – RCIA MEETING – 7PM IN THE FRIARY

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

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023 – COACH TRIP TO ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET & DICKENS PARADE. See the Newsletter and the Website for full details.

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 recentl

URSULINE RED LETTER DAY **13 OCTOBER 2023**

The Ursuline sisters joined the Roman Union in 1923. They will be celebrating this centenary on Friday 13th 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 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 18th October 2023 at 7pm at the Friary.**

Saturday 7th October 2023 **OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

Mary Virgin and Mother, you, who moved by the Holy Spirit welcomed the word of life in the depths of your humble faith: as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One, help us to say our "Yes" to the urgent call, as pressing as ever to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Pope Francis "The Joy of The Gospel".

8th October to 14th October

A week of prayer for Prisoners and their Families.

BCYS YOUTH GATHER – Sat 21st – Sun 22nd

October, at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island.

Open to absolutely anyone in year 9 and above, this is a weekend of outdoor activities (climbing, high ropes, archery, zip wire) as well as prayer, reflection and input from the amazing Adenike, who was a semi-finalist on "The Voice" (many will remember her from Flame in March!) There will be coaches picking up from 6 different locations around the Diocese, and this is included in the cost of the weekend, as well as all food, accommodation, 2 outdoor activities, workshops from Adenike and the SVP and so much more!

LAST PLACES AVAILABLE AT www.bcys.net/events/y23

Rochester Christmas Market & Dickens' Parade Coach Trip

A lovely atmospheric market enhanced by locals dressing as Dickens' characters. A great opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and sample some mulled wine and mince pies.

Date: Saturday 2 December 2023

Time: Leaving the church at 09.30 am.

Return from Rochester at 5.30pm

Price: Adults £10. Children £5.

Please contact Sarah on 07778 868827 to secure your place. Book early to avoid disappointment.

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR **Feast Day 13th October.**

In the Roman Catholic Church, the feast day of Edward the Confessor is on 5 January, the anniversary of his death. It was moved in 1969 to this date from 13 October, the anniversary of a translation of his relics, at which it had been placed in 1679, when first inserted into the Roman Catholic calendar of saints.

Grove Crescent Rd, Stratford, E15 1BJ

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:

Kathleen Allen Pastoral Assistant: **Derek Hoddy** Tel: 0208 534

