



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 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5th November 2023

God's kingdom is a living power among us. We experience it wherever we make peace, serve one another and respect all living things. Let us prepare to be touched and challenged by God's generosity and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Today's Readings:

First Reading Malachi 1:14 – 2:2, 8-10: Religious leaders are warned that they have caused many to "stray" and "stumble" because of their teaching and actions.

**31st Sunday
of Ordinary
Time**

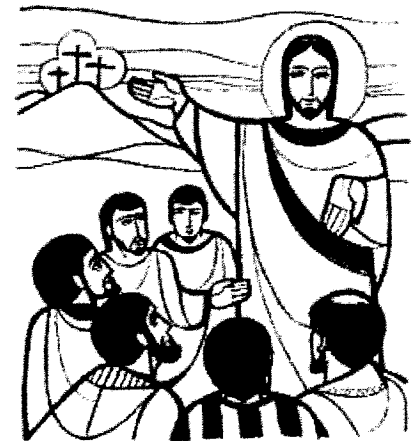
Response to the Psalm: Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13: God's message is a "living power" among communities of Christians.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12: The failures of the scribes and Pharisees are identified, and Jesus suggests that his followers seek a path of humility and service.

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted"

Jesus denounced the hypocritical behaviour of the scribes and Pharisees. Although he acknowledged that their teaching authority rested on the "chair of Moses" (the "chair of Peter" is a similar term for Church authority), he warned his disciples not to follow their example. These religious leaders enjoyed their titles of honour and liked to call attention to their "phylacteries" as evidence of their piety. These small leather boxes contained essential passages of the Torah and were worn on the forehead and on the left arm (closest to the heart) during prayer. The tassels sewn on the corners of their garments (Hebrew: tzi-tzit) were a symbolic reminder to keep the Law of Moses. While the religious leaders demanded obedience to the minute details of the law, their own deeds did not always correspond to their words. In contrast, Jesus was a humble servant and teacher of God's law by his practice of love and mercy.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER – REPOSITORY STALL WILL BE OPEN AFTER EACH SUNDAY MASS.

SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES: PARENTS & CHILDREN – 2PM – IN THE CHURCH.

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

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2023 – CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES MEETING 7PM – LARGE HALL.

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023 – BINGO & CURRY NIGHT AT 7PM IN THE LARGE HALL.

PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS DINNER – DECEMBER 2023 – DATE & DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

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. We also pray for peace in the Holy Land.

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.

CONFIRMATION - 2024

The first meeting for all the **Confirmation Candidates** will be on Friday 17th November 2023 at 7pm in the large hall. It is important to attend this meeting.



BI-ANNUAL MASS FOR THE DEAD-

**St Patricks Cemetery –
13th November at 11:30am.**



BINGO & CURRY NIGHT



The Bubbly Club and the Knights of St Columba are having a **Bingo/Curry Night** on **Saturday November 18th, not the 11th** as previously advised. Tickets on sale.

REPOSITORY STALL - 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

The Repository Stall will be open after each Mass on 12th November. Advent Calendars, Church Art Calendars, Christmas Cards & "Walk With Me" booklets will be on sale.

Please take a look!

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 10.30am–11.30am
5pm - 5.45pm



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
Every Saturday 10.30 to 11.30am.

**ST. JOSAPHAT
NOVEMBER 12**



Lord, grant me the grace to shed my blood for the unity of the Church and on behalf of obedience to the Holy See?

St Josaphat, the Patron Saint of the Ukraine and great saint of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was a remarkable man who exemplified the virtues of unity, love, and courage. St. Josaphat, born in the Ukraine in

1580, was a member of the Orthodox Church. He became a Catholic and a Basilian Monk. Later, he was ordained and became Bishop of Polock. Josaphat was a bridge-builder in a time of division and strife; he spent his life working for the unity of the Church, and was martyred by his enemies in 1623. In a world marked by conflict and discord, St Josaphat dedicated his life to the cause of Christian unity. His commitment to reconciliation and his unwavering faith in Christ's prayer "that all may be one" (John 17:21) should inspire us to work for unity among our own communities. St. Josaphat's love for Christ and his fellow Christians was evident in his willingness to give everything, including his life, for the sake of the Gospel. Love, as St. Paul tells us, is the greatest of virtues, and it should guide our actions and decisions each day. Courage was a hallmark of St. Josaphat's life. In the face of opposition and danger, he remained steadfast in his faith and commitment to unity. He did not waver but rather embraced unity with a courageous heart, knowing that Christ's message of love and unity was worth any sacrifice. On this feast day of St. Josaphat let us invoke his intercession on our journey toward unity, love, and courage.

St Josaphat, pray for us. Amen

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**

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