

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 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12th November 2023

The changing season, reminds us of death and dying. As the liturgical year draws to its close, we are encouraged to think about death and dying in the context of our faith. What are we looking forward to? Our sinfulness leads us to death; our faith in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead opens our hearts to the hope of eternal life.

Today's Readings:

Wisdom 6:12-16: Wisdom, God's loving purpose for us, is waiting for us to find her.

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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: Paul gives us reasons to hope. If we die in Jesus, God will bring us with him to stay with him forever.

Matthew 25:1-13: Jesus warns us to stay awake, ready for the bridegroom to come, ready for the wedding feast of heaven.

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour"

Jesus told his followers a parable about the necessity of being prepared for his final coming. In the story, the Church was depicted as bridesmaids who were either vigilant, or unprepared, for the arrival of the "bridegroom" who was Christ. In Jesus' day, the bridesmaids were expected to meet the bridegroom with their oil lamps to lead the wedding party to his home where the wedding feast would be held. The foolish bridesmaids did not expect the bridegroom to arrive at night, but the wise ones believed that he could arrive at any time. The foolish bridesmaids were caught by surprise and had to go and find oil for their lamps while the rest of the wedding party proceeded to the wedding feast. By the time they arrived, the door had been locked, and they were refused entry.

The point of this parable of the bridesmaids is **readiness**. Jesus was continuously telling people to wake up and to stay awake. Obtaining the oil of sanctity was the responsibility of each individual. No one could borrow the spiritual wealth that other people have acquired. Jesus said that he would welcome the faithful servants, but those who foolishly left these matters to the last would be excluded from the wedding feast in God's kingdom.



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 – 8th DECEMBER 2023 IN THE LARGE HALL – SEE NEWSLETTER & POSTER.

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

**St Francis Pensioners
Christmas Lunch**

also open to any parishioner who might be on their own for Christmas day.

Date: Friday 8 December
Time: 1.30pm for a 2pm sit down
Venue: Large Hall at St Francis Church

Menu:

CHRISTMAS BUFFET:

Boned and rolled turkey breast; honey glazed gammon; roast potatoes; roast parsnips; seasonal vegetable medley; pigs in blankets; sage and onion stuffing balls; Yorkshire pudding; rich red wine gravy.

Vegetarian option: Quorn roast (v)

DESSERT :

Apple Strudel, served with creamy custard;
Christmas Pudding, served with creamy custard or fresh fruit salad.

Meal accompanied by wine or soft drink
Tea/coffee mini mince pies

£5 deposit to secure a place.

Cost will not be more than £20 per person, payable on the day.

Please call Sarah on 07778 868827 (after 12 Nov) to book your place. **OR**, put £5 in an envelope and hand in to Parish office, giving your name/phone number and stating meat or veggie option, and I will call you to confirm booking.

Final date for booking is 4 Dec.

Remembrance Sunday falls

today, the Sunday nearest Armistice Day (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918) when the guns fell silent at end of the First



World War. On this day we remember all those who gave their lives for their country and everyone who suffered and died through acts of war and all those who were left behind to grieve and mourn.

**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 today 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



**REPOSITORY STALL –
AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES
12TH NOVEMBER 2023.**

The Repository Stall will be open after each Mass today. Christmas Cards, Calendars etc. **Cash only please. Thank you.**

**BINGO &
CURRY NIGHT**



The Bubbly Club and the Knights of St Columba are having a Bingo/ Curry



Night on **Saturday November 18th**. Tickets on sale.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 10.30am–11.30am
5pm - 5.45pm



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,
Every Saturday at 10:30am.**



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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