



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 1BJ

SUNDAY CYCLE: YEAR A (Matthew)

WEEKDAYS CYCLE: YEAR 1



Christ the King of the Universe - 26th November 2023

The abuse of power is evident in so many ways in our world, within the Church, among nations and by individuals. As Christians, we are called to follow Christ's example of the power of service, shown supremely by his death on the cross. The power wielded by Christ was that of service: to heal, to forgive, to love. We seek forgiveness now for the occasions we have abused power in our own lives.

Today's Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17: The Lord promises to look after the flock himself.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28: All shall be brought to life in Christ.

Matthew 25:31-46: The last judgement of the nations.

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"

In Jesus' last discourse in Matthew's gospel, he gave a graphic illustration of the last judgment in which the righteous were separated from the wicked. Jesus' image was drawn from the practice of pasturing sheep and goats together during the day, and then separating them at nightfall. At the Last Judgment, the righteous "sheep" were given a favoured place at Christ's "right hand. They were the ones who heard the shepherd's voice and responded through corporal works of mercy. Those who have done good deeds for one of "these least brothers of mine" will be blessed, but those who have failed to do these deeds for one of "these least ones" will be condemned. The good deeds are feeding the hungry, offering hospitality to the homeless, clothing the naked, comforting the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. St. John of the Cross wrote:

"When the evening of this life comes, we will be judged on love."



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER – WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY.

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER – MASS FOR DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE DEANERY AT 10:30 FOLLOWED BY NOVENA – NO 12:15 MASS.

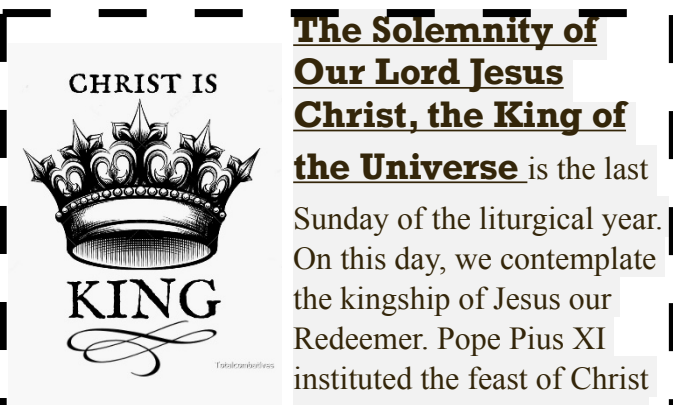
FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2023 - PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS DINNER IN THE LARGE HALL – SEE NEWSLETTER & POSTER.

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023 – FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MEETING – 2PM – IN THE CHURCH.

WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024- NIGHT SHELTER BEGINS - IN THE LARGE HALL. SIGN UP SHEETS ARE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

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.



The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. On this day, we contemplate the kingship of Jesus our Redeemer. Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King in 1925 to remind

Christians that their allegiance was to their spiritual ruler in heaven as opposed to earthly supremacy claimed by dictators at that time. Nowadays, we need this reminder that our first allegiance must be to Christ the King, especially as we face the temptations of our growing culture of secularism. The feast has an eschatological dimension pointing to the end of time when the kingdom of Jesus will be established in all its fullness to the ends of the earth. It also leads to Advent, when the Church prepares for the arrival of the new-born king. The New Liturgical Year begins with the First Sunday of Advent, December 3. The year is **Year B** - we read **Mark's Gospel** in the coming year.

NIGHT SHELTER - 2024

It has been confirmed that we will be running the **Night Shelter** as part of the **NewDawn** project at the start of 2024. We will open our doors on **Wednesday nights** starting on **January 10th** 2024 and our last night will be **February 28th** 2024. We will open **every week** doing eight nights in all. The forms for signing up for duties are at the back of the Church. As before, we hope to run with many people doing what they can manage rather than a few people doing everything. We would particularly like to hear from you if you can help cook, sleepover (even if it is for one night only) or cover a morning shift. Please return the form to the Friary office or by handing it to one of the Stewards after Mass.

TRIP TO ROCHESTER - 2nd Dec. 23

To everyone going on the Rochester coach trip on Saturday 2 Dec. Please note the pick-up time from the church is 09.30am. There is a change to the return time, it is now **6.30pm (not 5.30 as previously stated)**, this is because the final procession is at a later time, and our coach people

have arranged a later pick up, so we don't miss the procession. Sarah - any queries please call on 07778 868 827

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**

NEWHAM DEANERY

The Priests of the Newham Deanery be meeting at Stratford this week (28 November). It will begin with Mass for deceased members of the Deanery at **10.30 am.** This will be followed by the **St Anthony Novena.**

NO MASS at 12.15 on TUESDAY

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: Kathleen

Allen Pastoral Assistant: Derek Hoddy Tel: 0208 534 1964 Email:
stratford@friar.org

Website: stfrancisassisistratford.com