



# 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 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



**World day of the poor.** Today's readings are all about the graces that God offers us every day. Each moment God is at work in us and in the world. Our task is to be aware of the opportunities offered and to respond.

#### Today's Readings:

**Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31:** The praises given to the woman here echo the praises given elsewhere in the scriptures to God. She reflects God's image and likeness.

#### Response to the Psalm:

**O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-6:** Standing ready for God may refer to our death and judgement but also to openness to the ways in which God comes to us every day.

**Matthew 25:14-30:** The parable of the talents shows God as the generous giver of graces, but one who asks that we take seriously the gifts we have and use them with confidence.

**"For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance".**

Jesus' parable of the talents was an allegory on wise stewardship for his disciples while they awaited his return and anticipated the Last Judgment. In the story, each servant was given a different sum of money to invest. (A talent was a Greek coin worth about 6,000 denarii, equal to a year's wages. Its modern-day meaning of a special aptitude or gift is derived from the use of the word in this parable.) The first two servants made wise investments and doubled their money. The third servant, fearing his master's rebuke should he fail, buried the money for safe keeping. When the master returned, each individual was asked to give an account of his stewardship. The wise servants were rewarded for their fidelity. They were given even greater responsibilities and were invited to the heavenly banquet. The one who saw his master as a tyrant and therefore acted unwisely was punished, losing the gift that had been given to him.



#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 – REPOSITORY STALL OPEN AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES.**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 – HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES – 2PM IN THE CHURCH**

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.**

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 - PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS DINNER IN THE LARGE HALL – SEE NEWSLETTER & POSTER.**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024- NIGHT SHELTER BEGINS - IN THE LARGE HALL**

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.**

### **REPOSITORY STALL - AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023.**

The Repository Stall will be open again after each Mass today. "Walk With Me" Booklets, Christmas Cards, Calendars, etc.  
**Cash only please. Thank you.**

## The World Day of the Poor



World Day  
of the Poor

was started

by Pope

Francis in 2017 with the theme of "let us love, not with words but with deeds." The Christian is called to follow the example of Jesus in loving God and neighbour, especially the most vulnerable. Pope Francis reminds us, "If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have got to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor." Developing a culture of **encounter** is a key theme for Pope Francis and an essential counter-witness to what he describes as a culture of waste and indifference, a culture that casts aside human beings who are not considered to be productive or useful.

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> 2024** and our last night will be **February 28<sup>th</sup> 2024**. We will open **every week** doing eight nights in all. The form 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 by posting it through the Friary door or by handing it to one of the Stewards after Mass

### 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

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