



St Francis of Assisi

Parish Newsletter

".....we can celebrate the most beautiful Christmas ever. In one of your woods, in Greccio, there is a cave similar to that of Bethlehem. I would like to represent the Christmas scene and see with our eyes, the poverty in which the Child Jesus came into the world. I want to see how he was placed in a crib and lay there between the ox and the donkey".
St Francis of Assisi.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

SUNDAY CYCLE: YEAR B (MARK)

WEEKDAYS CYCLE: II

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 10TH DECEMBER 2023 -

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.



Every year on the second Sunday of Advent, the Church asks us to ponder the words and deeds of St John the Baptist. John reminds us of the need to prepare for the coming of Christ with self-reflection and repentance.

Today's Readings

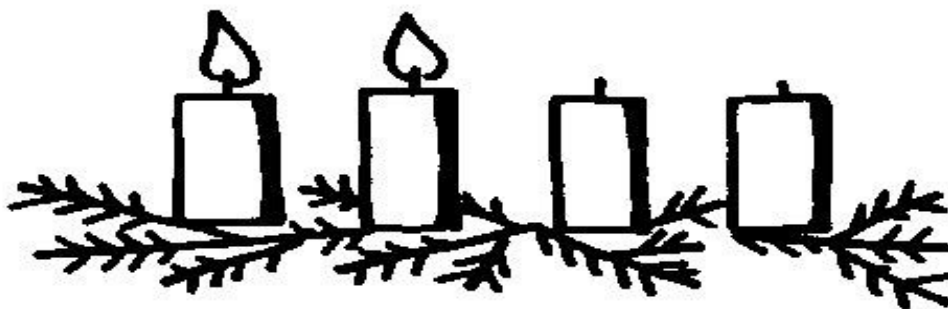
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11: We hear a call to "prepare a way for the Lord".

Response to the Psalm: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help,

2 Peter 3:8-14: Peter suggests there will be a new creation "where righteousness will be at home".

Mark 1:1-8: John the Baptist baptises in water, anticipating the coming of the Messiah, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.

**"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way"**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2023 – TANSI CHOIR CAROL SERVICE 6:30PM

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER - ALTAR SERVERS MEETING 1PM IN THE CHURCH

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.

Catholics Can Receive A Plenary Indulgence By Praying Before A Nativity Scene

This year, Catholics will be able to receive a plenary indulgence from Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to Feb. 2, 2024, the feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by praying before a Nativity scene in a Franciscan church.

Earlier this year, on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the faithful gathered at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, to honour the beloved Italian saint and celebrate the 800th anniversary of the approval of the Rule of St. Francis (1223) and the creation of the Nativity scene in Greccio. As part of the celebration of this Franciscan Centenary, the Conference of the Franciscan Family asked Pope Francis for the approval of this plenary indulgence.

What Is A Plenary Indulgence? A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ, Mary, and all the saints to remove the temporal punishment due to sin. The indulgence cleanses a person of all temporal punishment due to sin. However, it must always be accompanied by a full detachment from sin.

Conditions To Receive A Plenary Indulgence In All Cases: Detachment from all sin, even venial. Sacramental confession, holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope. Sacramental confession and receiving the Eucharist can happen up to about 20 days before or after the act performed to receive a plenary indulgence. It is appropriate that Communion and the prayer take place on the same day that the work is completed. One sacramental confession is sufficient for several plenary indulgences. However, for each plenary indulgence one wishes to receive, a separate reception of the Eucharist and a separate prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father are required.

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING

On **Saturday 16th December 2023 at 1pm**, there will be a meeting for all Alter Servers in the Church,

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MEETING

On **Sunday 17th December at 2pm** in the Church.



Mark begins his Gospel with the powerful announcement that his Gospel's central character is Jesus Christ. "Jesus" is his name, and "Christ" is his title. The Christ, the Messiah: "Mashiach" in Hebrew, "Christos" in Greek. They both mean the same thing: "the Anointed One," a messianic title. Moreover, Jesus is the 'Son of God'. Only at the end of his gospel does another person give Jesus that title, the centurion at the cross. Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark doesn't tell us anything about the infancy of Jesus. Instead, we're introduced to Jesus as an adult through his forerunner, John the Baptist. John proclaims the good news that the Messiah, the Christ (the "anointed one"), was coming to save his people. John was the "new Elijah" who prepared the people for the arrival of the "Day of the Lord". Like the great prophet, Elijah, John appeared in the desert proclaiming a message of repentance. John realized that his role was that of a lowly herald of the glad tidings; he himself was not the message. John was a humble servant unworthy of untying the sandals of his master. His baptism of water was for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus was the "one more powerful" who would baptize with the purifying grace of the Holy Spirit.

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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