



# ***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: B (MARK)**

**WEEKDAYS CYCLE: II**

**14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Peace Day**

If we want to know Jesus, we've got to spend time with him, talking to him and listening to what he has to say. God invites us to become disciples of Jesus and his lifelong companions.

### **Today's Readings**

**1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19:** God called Samuel and he responded in freedom.

**Response to the Psalm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.**

**1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20:** Anyone who follows the Lord shares his Holy Spirit.

**John 1:35-42:** Andrew, John and Simon Peter came to learn about Jesus through spending time with him.

### **"You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas," (Peter).**

The day following Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist observed Jesus coming toward him and he called him by the significant title, the "Lamb of God." Just as the Passover lamb was sacrificed to liberate the Hebrew people from slavery, Jesus was the one who came to take away the world's sins. Two of the Baptist's disciples followed Jesus out of curiosity. Upon seeing the pair, Jesus invited them to follow him as his disciples. The new disciples addressed Jesus as their "Rabbi" (teacher), but they soon discovered that he was the "Messiah," God's anointed one. One of them, Andrew, brought his brother Simon to Jesus. Jesus changed Simon's name to "Cephas," meaning "rock" in the Aramaic language which Jesus spoke. Such a name was appropriate for a strong character like Simon. Changing a person's name indicated a new relationship and function, and a designation of his leadership. He would be the rock, the foundation upon which Jesus would build his Church. **The Greek name "Petros" (Peter) is the masculine for petra, which mean "rock." Peter's name always appears first in the lists of the Apostles, and he is mentioned more than any other Apostle. Peter acted as the Apostles' spokesman whenever Jesus questioned them. He was present at the Transfiguration: when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter and at Gethsemane during the Lord's agony. After the resurrection, Jesus told Peter to feed his lambs and sheep. It was Peter who later directed the selection of a successor to Judas and he presided at the first council in Jerusalem. Peter's most important assignment was when Jesus told him: "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven". Peter is the chief apostle and the first Pope.**

Look,  
there  
is the  
Lamb  
of God

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

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 – JOURNEY OF FAITH – 7PM – IN THE FRIARY.**

**SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES.**

**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 – VALENTINES DAY DANCE – LARAGE HALL – DETAILS IN THE NEWSLETTER**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 – PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

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, and the people Japan following the devastating earthquakes. We also pray for peace in the Holy Land.

## **NIGHT SHELTER – 2024**

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time for this cause. We opened our doors on **Wednesday 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.

## **HOLY COMMUNION MEETING**

The next meeting for the Candidates, Parents & Guardians for Holy Communion 2024 will be on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2pm** in the Church.



**Help Your Marriage –** Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk). Do you need in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. There is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

## **JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, or, wishing to explore their Faith, the Journey of Faith meeting is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm at the Friary.**



## **THE BUBBLY CLUB**

**&**

## **THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**

**Invite you to St Valentine's Day Celebration**

on

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Large Hall from 7:30pm onwards.**

**Tickets are £12 per Adult**

**£5 per Child aged 7-11 years.**

Soft Drinks included along with food supplied by the Bubbly Club Master Chefs! Please bring your own alcohol. Tickets available after all Masses.

Everyone Welcome.



## **BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL**

### **LENTEN TALKS:**

4 Lenten talks on the recent Synod on Synodality in Rome. The 4 speakers who were at the Synod. **Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, (Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024)**. Preacher and Spiritual Director for the whole Synod; **Revd Dr Jan Nowotnik (Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024)** Director of Mission for Bishops' Conference, and its National Ecumenical Officer; **Mr Austen Ivereigh (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024)** Catholic Journalist, Biographer of Pope Francis; **Writer, speaker on contemporary Church affairs; Bishop Nicholas Hudson Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024** Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, (former Rector of the Ven English College, Rome), delegate at the Synod. **All Talks at Brentwood Cathedral 7.30pm.**

## **REPOSITORY**

**The Repository will be open on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024, after all Sunday Masses. Candles, Rosary Beads, Cards etc.**

Grove Cresce  
nt 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: stfrancisassistratford.com**