



# **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**



### **28th January 2024 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

As he travels around, Jesus is recognised by what he says and what he does. Let us come before the Lord and listen to his voice.

#### **Today's Readings**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20:** God will raise a prophet among you who will speak with the Lord's word.

**Response to the Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not you hearts'.**

**1 Corinthians 7:32-35:** Paul invites people to fulfil their role for which the Lord has called them, free from worry.

**Mark 1:21-28:** The crowd recognises Jesus as a prophet who offers a teaching that is new, which he speaks with authority.

#### **"What is this? A new teaching with authority."**

The scholars of the Law held positions of authority because of their great learning, but Jesus taught on his own authority (Greek exousia, the power that "came out of his very being"). The people were enthralled by the power of Jesus' words. They marvelled that he taught like the ancient prophets, not like the teachers they were acquainted with. While teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum, Jesus healed a man possessed by an "unclean spirit". Unlike the religious leaders, the demons knew that divine power was at work in Jesus, and they attempted to overpower Jesus by invoking his name. Jesus was more powerful than the demons, and he rebuked them and commanded them to be silent. The crowds were astonished, and at the same time, they were perplexed as they did not yet understand the true identity of Jesus. Jesus' fame continued to spread throughout the whole region of Galilee.



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

**MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 - FUNERAL MASS AT 12:15 - EMILY LETHAM - R.I.P.**

**THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 - BCYS YOUTH MASS AT 6PM - BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL.**

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 - FUNERAL MASS AT 12:15 - MAGDALENE AMABLE - R.I.P.**

**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 - THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL THREE SUNDAY MASSES.**

**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 - VALENTINES DAY DANCE - LARAGE HALL - DETAILS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.**

**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.

## **FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

**FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2024,**

LUKE 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

(Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2:14-18)

**“For my eyes have seen your salvation  
which you prepared in sight of all the  
peoples”.**

After the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, Mary spent forty days in ritual purification from childbirth (Lev. 12:3-4). When the days of her ritual purification were fulfilled, the couple brought the infant Jesus to the temple to offer the sacrifice required by the Law. One of Israel's deepest hopes was to re-establish the temple as the place of right worship so that the glory of the Lord might return. When Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus into the temple, the prophecy of Malachi was fulfilled. In the temple that day was Simeon and Anna, two elderly people, who faithfully awaited the deliverance of Israel. Simeon praised God for allowing him to behold the one who would bring salvation to everyone. Then Simeon directed his words to Mary saying that a “sword would pierce her heart”. Her deep faith would not spare her from sharing the suffering of her son. Anna was a devout widow who spent her days praying and fasting for the redemption of Israel. She was a “prophetess,” one who interpreted God's actions in the world. Anna gave thanks to God and told everyone that deliverance would come through the child Jesus. Afterward, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew in age, wisdom, and in the grace of God. **Mass at 12.15pm.**

*NOTE: **Candlemas.** The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple. It also marks the ritual purification of Mary after the birth of her son. A mother was brought to the temple or synagogue and ritually purified. Then she could go out in public and to religious services. The feast is also called **Candlemas Day** because that is the day on which the year's supply of candles for the church are blessed. Christians observed Candlemas Day in Jerusalem as early as the 4th century. By the middle of the 5th century, candles were lit on this day to symbolize that Jesus Christ was the light of the world.*

## **CHRISTMAS 2023 CRIB COLLECTION**

Thank you all for your kind  
and generous response to the  
above – we collected £376.15.



## **Racial Justice Sunday 2024 ...**

... highlights the global refugee crisis, emphasising Europe as a destination. Despite the UK's exit from the EU, its ties to Europe persist. Attitudes toward immigration have hardened, influenced by the refugee crisis, political opportunism, and cost-of-living challenges

108.4 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes. Among them nearly 35.3 million refugees. About 41 per cent of them are under the age of 18.’ Arrivals from Afghanistan, Syria and the Ukraine – the top three countries in the world for refugees. Conflicts in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia have also been ‘push’ factors for movement to Europe.

On **Racial Justice Sunday**, we highlight these issues and explore how Christians can contribute by recognising the racial and interfaith dimensions of the problem.

## **ON-LINE SCAMS.**

We would ask everyone to be vigilant with regard to on-line requests for money etc. If you do get a message requesting money for our Parish, please check with the Parish Office first.

## **THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**

The Knights of St Columba are meeting in the Large Hall TODAY, at 1pm.

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**

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