



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

21st January 2024 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday of the Word of God.



Jesus calls us each day to follow him and to seek the kingdom of God. Each day gives us a new opportunity to follow Christ. Jesus calls us to follow him and shows us the way.

Today's Readings

Jonah 3:1-5. 10 Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repentance. They hear his call and return to the Lord.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, make me know your ways.

Corinthians 7:29-31: Life is short. Do not waste it on passing things.

Mark 1:14-20: Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him.

"Follow me and I will make you fish for people"

With John's arrest, Jesus continued the Baptist's proclamation: "Repent and believe the good news that God's reign is at hand." The long-awaited fulfilment of God's promises had arrived in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. As Jesus preached along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, he called four fishermen to be his first disciples. Simon and his brother Andrew immediately responded to Jesus' call. James and John, another pair of brothers, left their family and livelihood to follow him. Jesus promised his disciples that they would be instruments to spread the gospel throughout the world. During their journey together, they would discover that there were no half-measures to serving the Lord. Faith demands conversion and repentance, not just once but as a lifelong process. Jesus tells us to follow him, which means to do what he does, to call other people to the kingdom. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of people." That is addressed to all of us; to all the disciples; to everyone of us.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES.
SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024 – FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MEETING – 2PM – IN THE CHURCH.
MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2024 – FUNERAL MASS AT 12:15 – JOHN DOXILIE, R.I.P.
MONDAY 29TH JANUARY 2024 – FUNERAL MASS AT 12:15 – EMILY LETHAM – R.I.P.
THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2024 - BCYS YOUTH MASS AT 6PM - BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL – DETAILS IN THE NEWSLETTER
FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024 – FUNERAL MASS AT 12:15 – MAGDALENE AMABLE – R.I.P.
SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 – VALENTINES DAY DANCE – LARAGE HALL – DETAILS IN THE NEWSLETTER.
SATURDAY 25TH 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

The Sunday of the Word of God was started by Pope Francis for the third Sunday of Ordinary



Time every year. It reminds us all of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as reminding us of the relationship between the word of God and the liturgy:

“As Christians, we are one people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as just a yearly event but more like a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with Sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness

HOLY COMMUNION MEETING

The next meeting for the Candidates, Parents & Guardians for Holy Communion 2024 will be **TODAY, at 2pm** in the Church.

REPOSITORY

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

BCYS YOUTH MASS –

Thursday 1st February, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral. Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a speaker from the SVP joining us to help prepare for the start of Lent. Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the

Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming – just email info@bcys.net



THE BUBBLY CLUB & THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA



Invite you to St Valentine's Day Celebration on Saturday 17th 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.

THE KNIGHTS OF ST



COLUMBA The



Knights of St Columba are meeting in the Large Hall on **28th January 2024 at 1pm.**

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 21st February 2024).** Preacher and Spiritual Director for the whole Synod; **Revd Dr Jan Nowotnik (Wednesday 28th February 2024)** Director of Mission for Bishops' Conference, and its National Ecumenical Officer; **Mr Austen Ivereigh (Wednesday 6th March 2024)** Catholic Journalist, Biographer of Pope Francis; **Writer, speaker on contemporary Church affairs;** **Bishop Nicholas Hudson Wednesday 13th 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.**

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

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