



# 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

### 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Life

can often be burdensome, but Jesus offers us the Good News of salvation. We come together, praying that our community and the Gospels will sustain each of us on our journey of faith, with our eyes always on the Lord who promises redemption.

#### Today's Reading

**Job 7: 1-4. 6-7:** Life is a burden for the melancholy who have no hope.

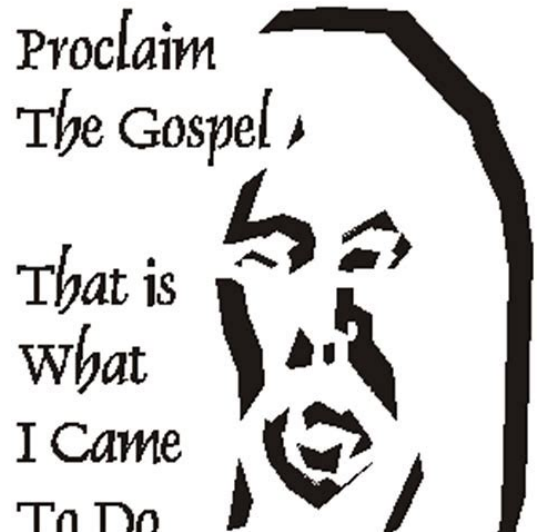
**Response to the Psalm:** Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

**1 Corinthians 9: 16-19. 22-23:** To preach the Gospel is a duty, even if it's one that is not chosen.

**Mark 1:29-39:** He cured many who were suffering.

**“Let us go on to the neighbouring villages that I may preach there also. For that is what I came to do”.**

Mark continues his narrative of a busy day in Capernaum as Jesus taught and healed. The miracles that Jesus worked, combined with his authoritative teaching, were signs pointing to the coming of God's reign, which he announced at the beginning of his ministry. Following the Sabbath service, Jesus went with his four disciples, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John, to Simon Peter's home where the apostle's mother-in-law lay ill. Taking her by the hand, Jesus raised her up and she was healed. In gratitude, she immediately waited on everyone in the house. The Sabbath ended at sunset and people were free to bring their sick to Jesus. He healed many of them. Early the next morning, Jesus went to a place of solitude for prayer. Even there his disciples searched him out and urged him to return. Jesus told them that he must spread the good news throughout Galilee to reveal God's kingdom of compassion and mercy, for that was why he had come.



#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

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

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

**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 – FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES, PARENTS & GUARDIANS – 2PM IN 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



is a day of **fasting** and **abstinence** - and the **beginning of Lent**. It is on **14 February**. Please bring in your Palms from last year to be burnt as ashes. **THE SEASON OF**

**LENT** is a preparation for

the celebration of Easter. The liturgy of Lent prepares the catechumens (adults preparing for Baptism and reception into the Catholic Church). Lent is also a time to remember our own baptism and a time of:

**PRAYER** (more frequent raising of the mind and heart to God)

**FASTING** (abstaining from some food or drink) and

**ALMSGIVING** (giving money or food for the poor).

Overall, it is a time of enhanced preparation for Easter.

### **Apprenticeships at Walsingham House:**

Walsingham House are offering a two-year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information please email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or visit the website [www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/](http://www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/)

**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.

### **LENT 2024**

**Prayer**      **Fasting**      **Almsgiving**  
**Ash Wednesday**: Mass 12:15pm & 7:30pm  
**14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Stations of the Cross**: Every Friday 7:00pm

**Confessions**: Every Saturday 10:30 – 11:30am  
5:00 – 5:45pm

**CAFOD Family Fast Day** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**Stations of the Cross in the Olympic Park**  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 at 11am.

### **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.**

### **Ministers of Communion**

It has been decided that Priests and Ministers of Holy Communion will no longer wear masks when distributing Holy Communion.

### **REPOSITORY**

The Repository will be open TODAY 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024, after all Sunday Masses.  
**Candles, Rosary Beads, Cards etc.**



**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.

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 Tel: 0208 534 1964 Email:

**stratford@friar.org**

**Website: stfrancisassistratford.com**