



**St Francis of Assisi**  
**Parish Newsletter**  
**800 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE**  
**FRANCISCANS ARRIVAL IN THE UK.**



**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

**SUNDAY CYCLE: B (MARK)**

**WEEKDAYS CYCLE: II**



**24th March 2024 - Palm Sunday of the**  
**Passion of the Lord**

We need courage to make new beginnings and to move beyond the letter of the law and to embrace its God-given spirit. Jesus showed us the possibilities. We are approaching the hour when Jesus' mission will be accomplished. Where do I stand before God?

**Today's Reading**

**Procession:**

**Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-26** – Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

**Response to the Psalm:    My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**Mass**

**Isaiah 50:4-7:** The true disciple doesn't abandon God despite opposition and so, in turn, is not abandoned by God.

**Philippians 2:6-11:** Jesus did not exploit his equality with God.

**Mark 14:1-15:47. The Passion according to Mark.:** An unnamed woman ignores convention and anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and her tears.

**“Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will”.**

Jesus gathered with his disciples to celebrate the Passover feast, which commemorated the Hebrew people's exodus from slavery to freedom. He inaugurated the new covenant with his people by giving them his body and blood in the bread and wine of the Passover meal. Jesus warned Peter and the other disciples that they would all deny him. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus accepted the bitter cup of suffering, and was betrayed by Judas who embraced him as a friend.



Jesus was arrested, accused of blasphemy by the religious leaders, and condemned to death by the Roman governor for the crime of sedition. The crowds demanded the release of Barabbas (a name that means: “son of the father”) in place of Jesus, the true Son of the Father. The soldiers mocked him as “King of the Jews”, and he was led to Golgotha (Hebrew for “skull;” Latin: Calvaria; English: Calvary) where he was crucified between two “revolutionaries” (zealots).

EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT – STATIONS OF THE CROSS – 7:00PM.  
 SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL MASSES.  
 SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 – PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – DETAILS IN THE NEWSLETTER .  
 THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 – YOUTH MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL – SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.  
 THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 – 12:15 – FUNERAL MASS - MRS BRIDGET MURPHY, R.I.P.  
 TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> TO FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 – THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

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 all countries where there is war. We also pray for peace in the Holy Land.



## Holy Week

Jesus sealed the covenant with his own blood, and a Gentile soldier made the declaration of faith that Jesus was indeed the “Son of God”. Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the Jewish High Council, the Sanhedrin, and secretly a disciple of Jesus, offered his own tomb for Jesus' burial. Mary Magdalene, and the other women who faithfully followed him, watched where he was laid.

### Youth Mass, Thursday 4th April 2024

**Celebrating the Easter week with a Praise and Worship Music Workshop.** Meet in the Parish Hall from 6pm for pizza and refreshments, before being lead in a music workshop with Art Wangcharoensab from the Cathedral music department. Singing is a wonderful way of praying together, sharing our talents and celebrating our faith, particularly in the joyful week following Easter Sunday! You are welcome to sing, bring an instrument or just listen if you prefer! At 7:30, Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral, where you are also welcome to sing, play, read or serve (just bring along an alb or instrument.) All information can be found at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) **Absolutely everyone is very welcome!**

### PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024.

Please see the posters around the Church regarding the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. We have arranged 2 coaches to take our Parishioners. One is already full. The coaches will leave Stratford at 8am to ensure we can make the most of the day. Pilgrims are advised to take a packed lunch and drinks, as although there is a cafeteria on site it is likely to be busy. Minimum cost is £10 per person. However, as the cost of the coach travel will be at least double this, if Pilgrims can pay more than the minimum this would help to cover costs and would be very much appreciated. Please contact Sarah McKiernan on 07778 868827 to book your place.

### REPOSITORY:

**The Repository will be open after all Sunday Masses TODAY. Candles, Easter Cards, Holy Communion & Confirmation Cards.**  
**Cash only please. Thank you.**

**PALM SUNDAY:** 9am, 10:15am & 12 noon  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Palms blessed in the Church).

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Mass at 12:15**  
(Confession available after Mass).

**HOLY THURSDAY:** Morning Prayer in Church  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 10am  
**Mass of the Lords Supper**  
8pm  
**Watching at the Altar of**  
**Repose until 9:30pm**  
**Night Prayer in Church:**  
9:30pm

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Morning Prayer in Church  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 10am.  
**Children's Stations of the**  
**Cross: 10:30am**  
**Celebration of the Lords**  
**Passion: 3pm**  
**Stations of the Cross**  
7:00pm

**HOLY SATURDAY:** Morning Prayer:  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 10am  
**Confessions 10:15 – 11:00**  
**Blessing of the Food: 11am**  
**Vigil & first Mass of Easter 8pm**

**NO 6PM MASS**

**Easter Sunday** 9am, 10:15am & 12 noon.

### Masses in Easter Week:

**Monday 10am**  
**Tuesday: 12:15pm (with Novena)**  
**Wed – Fri: 3-5 April 12:15**  
**Sat: 9:40am**  
**Mass: 10am**

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### 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**

**Youth Co-Ordinator: Catherine Wallis-Hughes – Tel: 07807 348223**

**Tel: 0208 534 1964 Email: [stratford@friar.org](mailto:stratford@friar.org)**

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