



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



17th March 2024 – 5th Sunday of Lent & St Patrick's Day.

Today, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we get closer to Holy Week. Our readings reflect the dark clouds which are gathering over Jesus and also the concern about what will happen to him when he enters Jerusalem.

Today's Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34: Jeremiah tells us of God's continuing patience with us even when we are most stubborn.

Response to the Psalm:

A pure heart create for me, O God.

Hebrews 5:7-9 : It is through Jesus' obedient suffering that we can be saved.

John 12:20-3: St John reveals to us Jesus' thoughts and apprehension about his coming suffering.

If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

An incident just before the crucifixion of Jesus. We see Jesus approaching the climax of his earthly ministry. Some Greeks arrive who want to see Jesus.

This moment symbolises the widening scope of Jesus' ministry beyond the Jewish community, and foreshadowing the eventual spread of Christianity to the Gentile world. As the Greeks approach, Jesus talks about his impending death, likening it to a grain of wheat falling to the ground to produce fruit. He emphasises the necessity of his death for the salvation of humanity. This foreshadows his crucifixion and resurrection, which would bring about

redemption for believers. Jesus then acknowledges his inner turmoil, expressing his human emotions while also submitting to the divine purpose of his mission. He prays to his heavenly Father, glorifying his name and seeking confirmation of his plan. In response, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus' request for confirmation. Some people there hear the voice as thunder, while others understand it as a divine sign. This moment serves as a public confirmation of Jesus' identity and mission, reinforcing the message of his divinity and the significance of his impending sacrifice.



EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT – STATIONS OF THE CROSS – 7:00PM.

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024 – IT'S AN EVENT DAY – PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE STREET – USE THE CAR PARK.

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024 – HOLY COMMUNION 2024 – MEETING FOR ALL CANDIDATES/PARENTS/GUARDIANS 2PM.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2024 – KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA MEETING AT 7:30 IN BOTH HALLS.

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL MASSES.

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2024 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS, IN THE OLYMPIC PARK – 11:30AM – MEET BY THE AQUA CENTRE.

TUESDAY 2ND TO FRIDAY 5TH APRIL 2024 – THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024 – PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – DETAILS IN THE NEWSLETTER & POSTER AT THE BACK OF THE

CHURCH

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.

Saint Patrick.

Patrick was kidnapped from England or Brittany around the age of 16 and shipped to Ireland as a slave. After six years as a shepherd, he escaped. Patrick studied in various monasteries, was ordained a Priest, and then consecrated as Bishop. Pope Celestine sent him to evangelize Ireland. Within 33 years he had effectively converted Ireland. In the Middle Ages Ireland became known as the Land of Saints and Scholars, and during the Dark Ages its monasteries were the greatest repositories of learning in Europe. Some of the Irish folklore that surrounds Saint Patrick includes the belief that he drove all the snakes from Ireland. But snakes weren't actually native to Ireland, and this may be a metaphor for his conversion of the pagans. Shamrock is traditionally worn on St Patrick's Day (The Wearing of the Green). This come from how Patrick is said to have used the three-leaved shamrock to show how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, celebrated on March 17th each year. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century AD. The celebration of St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a global festival of Irish culture, with parades, parties, and the wearing of green clothing or accessories being common customs. It's a day when people of Irish descent and many others around the world celebrate Irish heritage and culture.



24th March 2024 (Palms blessed in the Church).

Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th March

Mass at 12:15

(Confession available after Mass).

HOLY THURSDAY: Morning Prayer in Church

28th 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:

29th March 2024

Morning Prayer in Church

10am.

Children's Stations of the

Cross: 10:30am

Celebration of the Lords

Passion: 3pm

Stations of the Cross

7:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY:

30th March 2024

Morning Prayer:

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

HOLY COMMUNION MEETING:

The meeting for the Holy Communion Candidates/
Parents/Guardians will be **TODAY**

Sunday 17th March 2024 at 2pm in the Church.

The Knights of St Columba

The Knights will be meeting on **Wednesday 20th**

March 2024 at 7:30pm in the Large Hall

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

SATURDAY 25TH 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.

PALM SUNDAY: 9am, 10:15am & 12 noon

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
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Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9:30am - 3pm Parish Secretary: Kathleen
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