



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

31st March 2024 – EASTER SUNDAY –

The Resurrection of The Lord.



On Easter Sunday we gather as a community to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We give grateful thanks for this happy day, and for the opportunities we have been given to pass the love and hope of the Risen Christ to everyone we meet. Jesus invites us to let go of everything that weighs us down, so that we too can rise with him in the hope and joy of Easter.

Today's Reading

Acts 10:34.37-43 God does not have favourites: the resurrection is for everyone.

Response to the Psalm: This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.

Colossians 3:1-4

Now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.

OR 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Leave your old ways behind and embrace the Gospel.

John 20:1-9 Jesus has risen from the dead – nothing will ever be the same again.

Our winter has become our spring!

Most of us will have experienced some kind of disappointment, pain or failure – it is part of life and cannot be avoided. For some this will be the loss of a loved one, or the break-up of a marriage. For others it might be persistent ill health, a job they don't enjoy or financial hardship. Some people may perhaps feel that life has been a disappointment, a series of small, exhausting setbacks and broken dreams. We all have our own crosses to bear. For the disciples, the crucifixion and death of Jesus on Good Friday must have signalled the ultimate dashing of all their hopes and dreams. They had seen him as the Messiah, the anointed one, the one who was to save them... and now he was gone. But everything changed when Christ rose from the dead that first Easter Sunday – nothing would ever be the same again. Without the resurrection the Jesus story would have been an interesting footnote in history – a miracle worker, a holy man, remembered with fondness and a little disappointment by his friends. As each of the apostles passed away, the memories would have dimmed and the whole movement withered away; a few stories passed on to grandchildren perhaps and – and then nothing. The resurrection means that we can say, "Jesus is alive!" in the present tense. He has conquered death, not just for himself, but for everyone and all times. It enables us to say "He lives among us", not a figure from history, but as a living presence – in the present. The risen Christ transcends time and space – he is available everywhere to everybody. For the disciples, the resurrection meant that Jesus had fulfilled the promise he had made to them. He truly was the Son of God. He appeared to them in various places in the days that followed, enabling Thomas "doubting Thomas" to proclaim, "My Lord and my God!" More than just an ordinary man, the Word made flesh, the risen Lord, was ready to fill his followers with his Holy Spirit so that the Christian Church could begin and then spread to every corner of the globe.

*Christ
is
Risen!*

THURSDAY 4TH APRIL 2024 – 12:15 – FUNERAL MASS - MRS BRIDGET MURPHY, R.I.P
FRIDAY 5TH APRIL 2024 – 12:15 – FUNERAL MASS – MR EDWARD EKPANG, R.I.P.
FRIDAY 30TH MARCH 2024 UNTIL MONDAY 8TH APRIL - THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.
SUNDAY 14TH APRIL 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL OPEN AFTER ALL MASSES.

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.

Following an ancient tradition, the Church regards the eight days (the Octave) from Easter Sunday of the Resurrection to the Second Sunday of Easter as one single unit of celebration. The preface for Easter Sunday is used each day of the week and on the following Sunday: "We praise you with greater joy than ever on this Easter day" - even though Easter Sunday is a week behind us. The double "Alleluia" is added at the end of each Mass. The celebration of the liturgy is full of joy and the Easter season of 50 days (with the Paschal Candle lit on the Sanctuary) continues as one great feast (sometimes called "The Great Sunday") to Pentecost (19th May)

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 2024 – FIRST CONFESSION.

On Saturday 6th April 2024 at 10:30am, the Holy Communion candidates for this year will be making their First Confession – please keep them in your prayers.

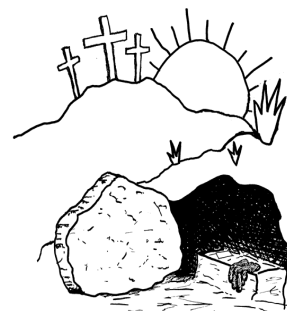
PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024.

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.

VOLUNTEERS MEETING:

There will be a meeting for all Volunteers on **Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7pm** in the Large Hall.

The stone has been rolled away, our hopes for the future have been rekindled, our winter has become our spring, Christ's rising is our rising.



He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28:6

Happy Easter!

REMINDER:

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED
FROM GOOD FRIDAY
30TH MARCH 2024 UNTIL MONDAY
8TH APRIL 2024.**

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**

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