



***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**

**4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent.**

There are many

distractions in our world today and we can easily lose sight of what is really important. We gather today to remind ourselves of where true value and wisdom lie and to commit ourselves to treating everyone with fairness and respect. Jesus turned the tables and cleared the way for all people to draw close

**Today's Reading**

**Exodus 20:1-17:** The Law is given to the people through Moses, teaching them how to live their lives and how to treat one another.



**Response to the Psalm:**

**You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.**

**1 Corinthians 1:22-25:** The Risen Christ reveals the wisdom of God, a wisdom that is beyond anything we can imagine.

**John 2:13-25 :** Jesus drives the money-changers out of the Temple and proclaims that he will make all things new.

**Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up.**

Jesus action in cleansing the temple was a protest against the commercialization of religion and the desecration of the Temple. But it went deeper. It was a symbolic action, the Old Testament prophet which passed judgement on the Jewish sacrificial system. Jesus was declaring that temple worship, with its ritual and animal sacrifices, was irrelevant and could do nothing to bring people to God. He was replacing sacrificial worship with spiritual worship. He was also protesting at the way religion had become narrow, nationalistic, and exclusive. Israel had failed to fulfil her universal mission to everyone. It had been God's



intention that the Temple should be a house of prayer 'for all nations'. But the Temple remained the jealously-guarded preserve of Israel. No Gentile dared venture beyond what was known as the 'court of the Gentiles' - under the threat of penalty and death. Jesus declared that salvation was not just for the Jews, but for everyone. The First Reading is one of the two versions of the Ten Commandments - a map of life for a people who enjoy a special relationship with God. They were to be seen as a gift, not a burden. However, Christians must not live by the Ten Commandments but by the 'law' of Jesus. Jesus brought in a new and more exacting law- the law of love. He effectively reduced the commandments to two: love of God and love of neighbour.

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

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2024 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE OLYMPIC PARK**

**TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> TO FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 – THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 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.

### **LENT – PRAYER**

**Stations of the Cross** – every Friday 7pm.

**Novena to St Anthony** – every Tuesday 12.15pm.

**Holy Hour - Adoration** – every Saturday 10.30 – 11:30am

**Weekday Mass** – Mon-Fri 12.15pm; Sat 10am.

**Confession** – Sat 10.30-11.30am & 5 – 5.45pm  
(extra times during Lent as announced).

**Stations in the Park** – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 11:30  
(Olympic Park).

*The following prayer was found written over the door of a church:*

‘Lord, make the door of this house  
wide enough to receive  
all who need human love and fellowship,  
narrow enough to shut out  
all envy, pride, and strife.  
Make its threshold smooth enough  
to be no stumbling block to children,  
nor to straying feet.  
Make this house a house of prayer  
and a gateway to your kingdom.

### **The Jubilee of 2025**

2025 is a Jubilee Year. It will be the second with Pope Francis. A Jubilee or Holy Year is a special time of grace: a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon. It lasts a year and a few days. It begins on 26 December 2024 with the **opening of the Holy Door at St Peter’s in Rome** which remain open until the end of the Jubilee when it is once again walled up.

### **MINISTERS**

#### **OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

All Ministers: Please to take a copy of the Mass team sheet from the back of the Church. Any queries, please contact Des Hoddy, Pastoral Assistant. Thank you.

### **St Francis, Stratford**

**Served by the Franciscans  
(Friars Minor)**

**for over a hundred and fifty years.**

### **PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024.** Please

see the posters around the Church regarding the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. This is a very popular pilgrimage and St Francis' Church intend to organise 2 coaches to take our Parishioners to Walsingham to join the pilgrimage. The coaches will leave Stratford at 8am to ensure we can make the most of the day. The coaches will leave Walsingham at 5pm for return to Stratford. 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. Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. **If you would like to come please contact Sarah McKiernan on 07778 868827** to secure your place. Please book early to avoid disappointment

### **Diocese of Brentwood**

From the Rt Rev Mgr Gordon Read. Diocesan Chancellor & Judicial Vicar – [Tribunal@brcdt.org](mailto:Tribunal@brcdt.org). If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following person, please contact the Tribunal Office (using the above email address), quoting the reference number given. It is important that we make contact with them, if possible, in order to protect their rights under Cannon Law.

**MRS MARISA PARISH 40/23**

**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: stfrancisassisistratford.com**

## **Concert for St John Bosco Children's**

**Camp:** Come and enjoy an exciting variety show

of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100

children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The

fundraising concert is on **Saturday 13th April**

**2024 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7:00 to**

**9:00 pm. Wine and refreshments included. Adult**

tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone:

07957382592. Online bookings and more details:

[www.boscocamp.co.uk/events](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk/events)