



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

7th April 2024 – Second Sunday of Easter -
Divine Mercy Sunday.



Basking in the light and joy of Easter, the risen Christ proclaims, "Peace be with you". We are sent out as God's children to witness to the resurrection by our actions, more than our words.

Today's Reading

Acts 4:32-35: The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power.

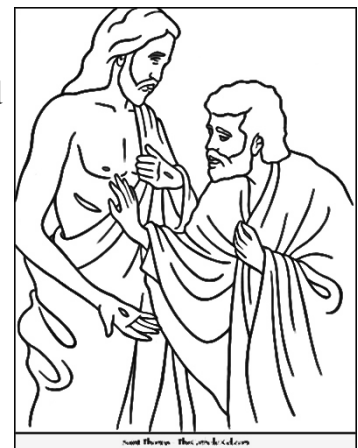
Response to the Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

1 John 5:1-6: We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us.

John 20:19-31: Jesus said to Thomas, "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed".

On the evening of the resurrection, the disciples were gathered in fear behind locked doors. They were overjoyed when the Risen Lord appeared in their midst with a greeting of "peace" (Hebrew, Shalom). Just as God breathed life into Adam, the first living being, the Son of God breathed the life-giving Spirit upon his disciples, sending them forth with the power to forgive sins. Thomas (called Didymus, meaning "twin") was absent on this occasion and he refused to believe their testimony. His defiant words "unless I see" came from one who knew Jesus as an intimate friend. A week later, the Risen Christ appeared again, and this time Thomas was present. When Thomas touched Christ's wounds, he declared Jesus to be his "Lord and God." Jesus told Thomas that those who believed in faith were more blessed than those who needed visible proof.



MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2024 – THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN AGAIN FROM 9:30AM.
SUNDAY 14TH APRIL 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL OPEN AFTER ALL MASSES.
SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024 – PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – DETAILS IN THE NEWSLETTER.

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

The Second Sunday of Easter is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. We reflect today on the profound message of mercy and forgiveness that flows from the heart of our compassionate God.

In today's Gospel, we encounter the disciples locked away in fear, hiding after the crucifixion of Jesus. Despite their doubts and uncertainties, Jesus appears among them, offering peace and breathing new life into their spirits. His first words to them are "Peace be with you," words that echo through the centuries, reaching us in our own moments of fear and doubt.

Divine Mercy Sunday invites us to contemplate the boundless mercy of God, a mercy that knows no limits and embraces everyone who looks for forgiveness and reconciliation. It is a day to rejoice in the knowledge that no sin is too great for God's mercy to reach, no wound too deep for his love to mend.

Let us pray for the grace to be instruments of mercy in our families, in our communities, and beyond, following the example of our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death and offers us the gift of eternal life.

Through the encounter in today's Gospel, we are reminded that doubt is not the opposite of faith but rather a part of the journey towards deeper belief. Jesus meets us in our doubts, offering us his wounded hands and side, inviting us to trust in his love and his infinite mercy.

REPOSITORY:

The Repository will be open after all Sunday Masses on 14th APRIL 2024. Candles, Holy Communion & Confirmation Cards. Cash only please. Thank you.

THE ANNUNCIATION

("LADY DAY") Transferred from 25 March in Holy Week.
MONDAY 8th APRIL

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God".

After centuries of longing for the Messiah, the glorious announcement was made to a young woman who lived in Nazareth, an insignificant village in northern Israel. Her name was Mary. As she pondered the joyful salutation, the angel Gabriel urged her not to have any fear as she had found favour with God. The power of the Holy Spirit would conceive Mary's son. He would be the son of the Most High God, the Holy One, the everlasting King of all the earth who would rule eternally over the "house of Jacob", fulfilling the promises made to King David. Jesus' name implied his mission: he would be the Saviour of everyone. Mary responded with faithful submission to the will of God. She was an example of those whom Jesus declared blessed because of purity of heart and desire to do God's will.



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.

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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