



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

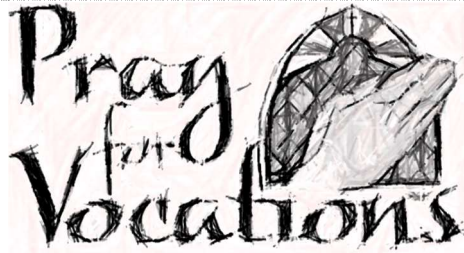


ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

SUNDAY CYCLE: B (MARK)

WEEKDAYS CYCLE: II



21st April 2024 - 4th Sunday of Easter -
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. As we gather as his little flock, the Lord greets us with the incredible news that he has not only died for us: he has also risen in glory in order to bind us to himself for ever. He also invites us to join all those throughout the world who are making this Sunday a day of prayer for vocations

Today's readings

Acts: 4:8-12: Peter publicly and courageously proclaims that it is only in the name of Jesus that anyone can be saved.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: **My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.**

1 John: 3:1-2: John promises that although God has already lavished incredible love upon us by transforming us into children of God, the best is yet to come.

Gospel John 10:11-18: Jesus calls himself a "good" shepherd because he freely lays down his life for his sheep, because he "knows" his sheep in the rich scriptural sense of living in intimate union with them and because he shares his life with them, as the Son shares life with the Father.

"I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep".

Throughout the Old Testament, God's loving care for the people had been portrayed as a shepherd guiding the flock. King David was once a shepherd himself. The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel indicted Israel's blind leaders who looked out for their own interests rather than those of the people. God would appoint "one shepherd," like David, to lead them. Jesus is the "good shepherd" who knows his sheep personally by name and protects them from harm. Jesus willingly laid down his life for the sake of the flock. No one could be hired to love that way. Jesus prayed that one day there would be "one flock, one shepherd" united in his saving love.



WEDNESDAY	24 TH APRIL 2024 - JOURNEY OF FAITH – 7PM IN THE FRIARY
FRIDAY	26 th APRIL 2024 - FUNERAL MASS – VALERIE D'MELLO
SUNDAY	28 TH APRIL 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL OPEN AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES – CASH ONLY PLEASE.
SATURDAY	25 TH MAY 2024 – PILGIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – NO MORE SEATS AVAILABLE

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

Good Shepherd Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday. In John 21:15-18, Jesus makes Peter the chief shepherd of the flock. This day was designated in 1964 as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, encouraging everyone to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Pope Benedict XVI invited all the faithful to "cultivate an intimate relationship with Christ, Master and Pastor of His people, imitating Mary who guarded the divine mysteries in her heart and contemplated them assiduously." The Church's sanctity depends essentially on her union with Christ and her openness to the mystery of grace at work in the hearts of believers.



Saint George, Martyr: Tuesday 23 April National Solemnity

The best-known story attached to Saint George is the 'Golden Legend' in which he fought a dragon that lived in a lake near Silena, Libya. Whole armies had gone up against this fierce creature and had gone down in defeat. George made the sign of the cross, rode to battle against the dragon, and killed it with a single blow with his lance. Then, with a magnificent sermon, he converted the locals. He was given a large reward by the king, which he distributed to the poor. Due to his chivalrous behavior, devotion to Saint George became widespread in Europe. In the 15th century, his feast day was as popular as Christmas. The celebrated Knights of the Garter are Knights of the Order of Saint George. He is Patron of England and one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers' - a group of saints venerated together because their intercession is believed to be particularly effective, especially against various diseases.



ALTAR LINEN - We need another volunteer to go on the Rota for laundering the Altar Linen. Please hand in your name to take part in this important work. Full instruction available.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations 20/21 April

This weekend, 20/21 April, the Church considers and prays for Vocations and especially as baptized Catholics, to be a priest and religious, along with the call of marriage and the Catholic single life. Let us reflect and pray together on the specific call in the religious life and ordained ministry so vital and necessary for the present and future of our Church. We, in particular as Franciscans, pray for more young men and women, aged 18-40, to think about such a way of life, calling and service as a Franciscan friar, sister and lay Franciscan. **Why not make enquiries from a friar; via the website friar.org; and/or emailing vocations@friar.org**

GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2024/2025.

The new Gift Aid Envelopes are available for collection at the back of the Church.

giftaid it
making donations go further

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024. NO SEATS LEFT!

4 people have booked seats but not yet paid, please note seats are not secured unless they are paid for in advance. Sarah will be at Mass on Sunday 28th April at 10:15, Sunday 4th May 9am, 10:15 & 12 noon. for those who have not already done so.



JOURNEY OF FAITH

The next Journey of Faith meeting will be on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7pm in the Friary.

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: stfrancisassistratford.co.UK

