



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

12th April 2024 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
- World Communication Day.



Today Jesus, in the Gospel, reflects upon the antagonism that people of faith may face in this world, but more especially it reflects on love; love which is more powerful than hatred, because it comes to us from God. Jesus revealed God's love for us by creating the Church: a community of people called and given grace to love God and to love one another.

TODAYS READINGS:

Acts 1:15-17. 20-26: With discernment and prayer the apostles choose Matthias to replace Judas as a fellow apostle.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

1 John 4:11-16: The heart of the Christian faith is love: God's love for us and our love for one another.

John 17:11-19: Jesus prays for the Church, for each of us to be one with him, to be filled with his joy; and for us to be protected from evil.

“Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are”.

On the threshold of his eternal glory in heaven, Jesus prayed an intimate prayer to his Father. It was his final prayer before his passion and death. The Church calls it the “High Priestly Prayer” as Jesus interceded on behalf of his “friends”. Just as Jacob and Moses gave the last benediction to the Twelve Tribes of Israel, so too, Jesus blessed the Twelve Apostles, the new people of God. Jesus completed the work assigned to him by making God known to his followers. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so too Jesus sent his disciples into the world as his apostles (‘those who are sent’). The Apostles were “consecrated” for this work, that is, they were set apart and made holy. Yet they were not removed from the world but must do Christ's work **in** the world. God commanded the people of Israel to be holy. God's holy people in the Church are a means of sanctification for the entire world.



WEDNESDAY:	15TH MAY 2024 – KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA MEETING – 7:30PM LARGE HALL
THURSDAY:	16TH MAY 2024 – FUNERAL MASS – MR JOAO DA LUZ, R.I.P.
SUNDAY:	19TH MAY 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER EACH OF THE SUNDAY MASSES.
FRIDAY:	24TH MAY 2024 – FUNERAL MASS – MRS MARY ANGELA GERAGHTY, R.I.P.

SATURDAY: 25TH MAY 2024 – PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – NO MORE PLACES AVAILABLE.

TUESDAY: 28TH MAY 2024 – NO MASS OR NOVENA – FRIARS AT A MEETING

Pray for those who have died, and those whose Anniversaries occur around this time, also, please pray for the sick, also remember the People of Ukraine, and all countries where there is war. We also pray for peace in the Holy Land. Please also keep all the First Holy Communion & Confirmation Candidates, and their families, in your prayers.

St Luke says that having

seen Jesus ascending into heaven, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem “**with great joy**”. This seems to us a little odd. When we are separated from our relatives, from our friends, because of a definitive departure and, especially, death, there is usually a natural sadness in us since we will no longer see their face, no longer hear their voice, or enjoy their love, their presence. The Evangelist instead emphasises **the profound joy** of the Apostles. But how could this be? Precisely because, with the gaze of faith they understand that, although he has been removed from their sight, Jesus stays with them for ever, he does not abandon them and in the glory of the Father supports them, guides them and intercedes for them.

POPE FRANCIS



REPOSITORY:

The Repository will be open after all Sunday Masses **on 19th May 2024**. Candles, Holy Communion & Confirmation Cards. Cash only.

RETROUVAILLE

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk **Do you need help in your marriage?**

AFRICA

CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal to support families in Sudan. Sudan is in the grip of the world’s worst hunger and displacement crisis. Watch this space.

YOUTH FACILITATOR

Newham Deanery has employed a Youth Facilitator **Olivia Ohonmele** to help us with our mission to the young people. Paula is still the co-ordinator for our Parish. We will keep you informed on any new developments. Please keep Olivia and Paula in your prayers.

Revive; Discover; Empower; **A Young Adults Retreat:**

Walsingham House are hosting a young adults retreat on the weekend of **22nd – 23rd June**. The retreat is **open to those who are 19+**. It will be a weekend of prayer and friendship and a wonderful opportunity to take a break from work or university. The cost of the retreat is £45 and more information, including how to book, can be found at www.bcys.net/events

CHANGES IN **PERSONNEL** **AT STRATFORD**

Changes afoot at the Friary.

The Fraternity at Stratford will become more international. (Filipino/ African/Italian/Polish/ Pakistani). The latter is, of course Fr Yusuf who we all know already. It means that Fr Michael and Fr Brian will be moving elsewhere – where? We don’t know! All these changes are scheduled to take place in the Autumn but do depend very much on getting visas etc. Welcoming the new, larger, community we feel sad at the departures.



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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