



**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**

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Pentecost Sunday**



As the Body of Christ, the Church, we celebrate and remember Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came down upon the first disciples. As the Holy Spirit came on those gathered in the upper room, so does the Holy Spirit descend upon us gathered around the table of the Lord today. Putting aside those times in our lives when we have chosen not to be guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek his presence now so that we might continue our journey into the fulness of life.

**TODAYS READINGS:**

**Acts 2:1-11:** Having received the Holy Spirit, the disciples spoke in the languages of all nations about the marvels of God.

**RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

**Galatians 5:16-25:** When the Holy Spirit is a guide in the ways of goodness, no earthly power can pass judgement.

**John 15:26-27; 16:12-15:** Jesus describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as empowering followers in their witness.

**He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"**

The great harvest that Jesus promised had begun at Pentecost, which the Jews dedicated to the gathering harvest and offering the first fruits (Hrbrew 'Shavu'ot', 50 days after Passover). The Christian feast of Pentecost, which occurs 50 days after Easter, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. It is most likely (that the disciples were gathered in the upper room where the Last Supper had been held. But they were fearful that the emissaries of the Sanhedrin would come to arrest them. Upon seeing the Risen Lord, the disciples were overjoyed. Just as the breath of God created Adam, the first human being, Jesus breathed forth the Spirit creating the new people of God, the Church. Empowered by the Spirit, Jesus' disciples were sent forth to bring peace through the reconciliation of sinners. Who is

the Holy Spirit? He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity, but more specifically, he is the love shared by the Father and the Son. **"Come, Holy Spirit!"** is the fundamental prayer of the Church -- in success or failure, whether you're young or old, rich or poor. **NOTE:** *The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost is the birth of the universal Church. Through the Spirit, the Church realises her call to preach the Gospel of Christ to the whole world. The double Alleluia at the end of Mass illustrates that the Easter Season has been brought to a close. The Easter Candle is extinguished and moved to the Baptistry. The 90 Days of Lent (40 days) and Easter (50 days) are over, but our call to Mission continues.*



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| <b>SUNDAY:</b>   | <b>19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN TODAY AFTER EACH OF THE SUNDAY MASSES.</b> |
| <b>FRIDAY:</b>   | <b>24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 – FUNERAL MASS – MRS MARY ANGELA GERAGHTY, R.I.P.</b>                    |
| <b>SATURDAY:</b> | <b>25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 – PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – NO MORE PLACES AVAILABLE.</b>               |
| <b>TUESDAY:</b>  | <b>28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 – NO MASS OR NOVENA – FRIARS AT A MEETING</b>                            |

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.

### **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.

### **ALTAR LINEN**

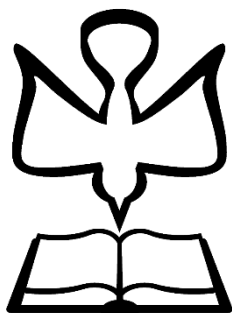
We need another volunteer to go on the Rota for laundering the Altar Linen. Please hand your name into the Parish Office to take part in this important work. Full instruction available.



### **THE NEW LECTIONARY**

**What is happening to the Lectionary and why?**

The Lectionary, the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations.



**What translation will the new Lectionary use?**

The new Lectionary will use both the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter for the psalms. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, to reflect current biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in liturgical setting that is more proclaimable and, where appropriate, more inclusive.

**When are the changes taking place?** The Lectionary will become mandatory for use in all Catholic parishes and Mass centres in England and Wales, and in Scotland from Advent 2024. The minimum our parish must order is the Four Volumes Ambo Edition of the Lectionary, from where readings will be proclaimed at Mass = £695.

### **REPOSITORY:**

**The Repository will be open TODAY after all Sunday Masses Candles, Holy**

**Communion & Confirmation Cards. Cash only please.**

### **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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) **Do you need help in your marriage?**

### **DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

From Rt Rev Mgr Gordon Read, Diocesan  
Chancellor and Judicial Vicar  
[Tribunal@brcdt.org](mailto:Tribunal@brcdt.org)

If you know the whereabouts of any of the following person/people, 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 Canon Law

**ELIZABETH MARGARET GALLAGHER**

5/23

### **REMINDER:**

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

Everyone who booked their place **MUST be at the Church by 7:45am** – the Coach leaves at **8am sharp**, Everyone is to bring a packed lunch & water.

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.co.UK