



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

Sunday 2nd June 2024

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi).



The Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life”. As we celebrate together as a community today, we are reminded of the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who said that Corpus Christi processions enable us to “immerse Christ, so to speak, in the daily routine of our lives, so that he may walk where we walk and live where we live.” Although we may have good intentions, we often fall short of the promises we have made. We seek the strength and courage to live up to our promises to love God and our neighbour.

TODAYS READINGS:

Exodus 24:3-8: Moses tells the people the Lord’s words and laws, and they respond with one voice.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord’s name.

Hebrews 9:11-15: Christ is the mediator of a new covenant. We are called to serve the living God.

Mark 14:12-16. 22-26: The disciples prepare for the Passover. Jesus takes and offers to his disciples the bread and wine, his body and blood.

He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said “Take it; this is my body”.

Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples in Jerusalem. Passover was one of Israel's three great feasts; along with Pentecost and Tabernacles Passover commemorated Israel's departure from slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land. During the Passover meal, the host always explained the sacred rituals. Jesus transformed these rites into the Christian Eucharist. The bread, blessed, broken and shared, became his body given up for the redemption of the world. The cup blessed and drunk was his blood shed for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus would seal the new covenant with his own body and blood on Calvary. After singing songs of praise, the disciples went out with Jesus to his passion and death.



**SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024 – CELEBRATION MASS FOR THE FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN & FAMILIES – 10:15
 TEA & COFFEE IN THE LARGE HALL AFTERWARDS.**

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASS

MONDAY 8TH JULY – BI-ANNUAL CONCELEBRATED REQUIEM MASS AT ST PATRICKS CEMETERY AT 11:30AM.

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 prayer

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

“They will look upon him whom they have pierced”.

FRIDAY 7th JUNE

John 19:31-37

(Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9;

Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19) The Jews had a law that prohibited people who had been executed from being left on the gallows after sunset on the eve of the Sabbath. The crucified could hang for days before dying, but death could be hastened by breaking the legs. This prevented the victim from supporting the weight of the body, thereby causing suffocation. Accordingly, a soldier came to break the legs of Jesus, but when he saw that he was already dead, he pierced Jesus' side with a spear. The Church is seen as issuing from the side of Jesus, just as Eve came forth from the side of Adam. The water and blood that poured forth from the heart of the Saviour is a symbol of Baptism and Eucharist. This feast of the Sacred Heart celebrates the truth that God is love, and desires that all generations discover this truth through the person of his Son Jesus, and to respond to his great love offered on the cross for our salvation.

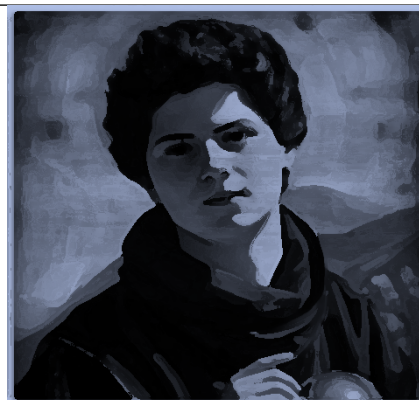
Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus goes back at least to the 11th century, but right through the 16th century it remained a private devotion, often tied to devotion to the Franciscan devotion Five Wounds of Christ. The first Feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated in 1670, in Rennes, France. But it was the visions of St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) which made the devotion universal. In all of these visions, the Sacred Heart of Jesus played a central role. Christ asked St Margaret Mary to request that the Feast of the Sacred Heart be celebrated in reparation for the ingratitude of humanity and for the sacrifice that he had made for them. Almost 100 years later, in 1856, Pope Pius IX extended the feast to the Universal Church. It is celebrated on the Friday after the octave (or eighth day) of Corpus Christi, or 19 days after Pentecost Sunday.



The children who received their **First Holy Communion** this year, and their families, will be attending a **Celebration Mass** at 10:15am. Afterwards, there will be tea & coffee in the Large Hall

Carlo Acutis: A Modern Day Saint.

To be canonised is Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died at the young age of 15 of cancer of the bone marrow.



In 2006; he was an inspiring example. Known especially, for his deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist and his skill in using modern technology to share his faith, Despite his brief life, his devotion, kindness, and enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel made a lasting impact. He was a computer wiz and saw great possibilities of sharing the Gospel. He loved St Francis and Assisi. Carlo was actually born in London and baptised in Chelsea before the family went back to their native Milan when he was 4 months old. Beatified in 2020 in Assisi, Carlo's life reminds us that sanctity is attainable at any age. He blended a modern life with profound spirituality and serving other people. Let us look to his example as we strive to live our faith in our daily lives

The Wedding of EDOARDO TOSO & MADELEINE SHAW ROBERTS

Please keep this couple in your prayers, Eduardo & Madeleine will be getting married on 6th July 2024 in Italy

The next **“Enquirers’ Evening”** for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 4 June at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Dan Mason. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@brcdt.org

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 &

9TH JUNE 2024
- CELEBRATION MASS.

4:30pm (Ukrainian).

Fr Michael O'Grady, OFM (Parish Priest)

Fr Brian McGrath, OFM

Fr Yusuf Bagh, OFM

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