



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



**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

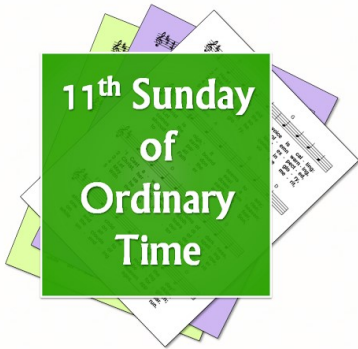
*Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ*

**SUNDAY CYCLE: B (MARK)**

**WEEKDAYS CYCLE: II**

**SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 –**

**11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,**  
**FATHERS DAY & DAY FOR LIFE.**



Today is the eleventh Sunday in the Ordinary Time of the Church's year. At this, as at every Mass, Jesus welcomes us to listen his word and to receive him into our hearts.

**TODAYS READINGS:**

**Ezekiel 17:22-24** – In his image of a tree Ezekiel paints us a picture of the Lord who cares for his people and brings them to shelter and safety.

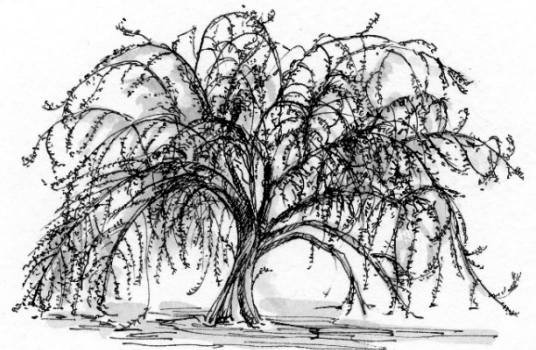
**RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:**      **It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.**

**2 Corinthians 5:6-10** – Paul writes of his longing to be with the Lord and his intention of pleasing him always.

**Gospel Mark 4:26-34** – Jesus tells us two parables to show us that for the Kingdom of God great things come from small beginnings.

**“With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it”.**

Jesus taught his followers through parables, stories that illustrated Christian truths using examples from everyday life. The images of farmers, grain, seeds, and plants invited the followers of Jesus to discover the nature of God's reign. Although a farmer did his work in planting the seed, it grew according to its own timetable. Jesus compared the irrepressible nature of the kingdom to a mustard seed that is small when it is sown, but which grew to the height of a great tree when the plant matured. So too the kingdom moves steadily forward toward its fulfilment. Jesus' disciples were greatly encouraged; their inadequacies would not hinder the coming of the reign of God, which would grow imperceptibly until fully established at the final judgment.



<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES.</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 - YOUTH MASS 7:30PM AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL.</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 – BI-ANNUAL CONCELEBRATED REQUEIUM MASS AT ST PATRICKS – 11:30AM</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>12<sup>TH</sup> JULY – DAY TRIP ALONG THE THAMES - SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 – PARISH SEA SIDE OUTING TO BROADSTAIRS – TICKETS ON SALE SOON.</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024 – PARISHIONERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH - DETAILS TO FOLLOW.</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.

**BI-ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS AT ST PATRICKS CEMETERY.**

The Bi-Annual Concelebrated Requiem Mass will take place at St Patricks Cemetery, Leyton at 11:30am on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**SVP**

Today, and every third Sunday of the month, there is a collection for the sick and the poor – the work of the S.V.P.

**DAY FOR LIFE**

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales, Day for Life is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year it falls on 16 June. The theme is The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life. A debate on end-of-life issues has been in the headlines in recent months with calls for assisted suicide being expressed, especially by celebrities, a view that opposes the Catholic view that life is a gift and that we are called to care for others at the end of their lives.

**DAY TRIP ALONG THE THAMES**

**12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

Meeting at Stratford Station at 10.15 AM (by Robert the big red train engine) travel by tube to Greenwich where we get the Uber boat return ticket, then travel by boat along the Thames to Battersea, where we usually picnic in the park. There is cafe where you can buy coffee/tea and snacks. It's a great opportunity to see what we get up to and enjoy a day out. People would have to cover their own travel and refreshment costs. If you want to know more please call Marian on 07715 420629 or Sarah on 07778 868827.

Antony's, Forest Gate

**PARISH SEA SIDE OUTING TO BROADSTAIRS – SAVE THE DATE.**

The Bubbly Club would like to invite any adult parishioners – children welcome if accompanied by adults - to join us on what has previously proved to be a lovely day out on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024**. Save the date, details to follow.

**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

The group meet at 7pm on the first Saturday of each month in the Small Hall.

**Father's Day** is

celebrated today, the third Sunday of June. It's a day to honour fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers and fathers-in-law. A lot of people make a special effort to visit their fathers or to send them a card or a gift.



Enjoy celebrating! "See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are!" I John 3:1.

**CHURCH LAUNDRY**

Please collect the NEW LAUNDRY ROTA from the Sacristy. Thank you.

**BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage, 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

A couple of last minute places have become available if anyone in school year 10+ still wishes to join this pilgrimage with the BCYS.

Full details on the pilgrimage and how to apply can be found at [www.bcys.net/events/sl24](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl24) or email [gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org](mailto:gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org)

**WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Edoardo Toso & Madeleine Shaw Roberts**

on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Italy  
**Ryan Salucideen**

**& Szabina Somogyi**

on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in Hungary.

**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**  
Allentel: 0208 534 1964 Email: stratford@friar.org  
Website: stfrancisassisistratford.co.UK