



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 28TH JULY 2024

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AND WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY.

We've got a gap in our Gospel readings from St Mark: for the next month we will be listening to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St John. This chapter elaborates the teaching of Jesus on the Eucharist, and we begin today with the miracle of the feeding of the crowd with the five barley loaves and two fish. We call to mind how we are nourished with the body and blood of Christ himself.



TODAYS READINGS:

2 Kings 4:42-44 – Elisha feeds the people with barley loaves and fresh grain.

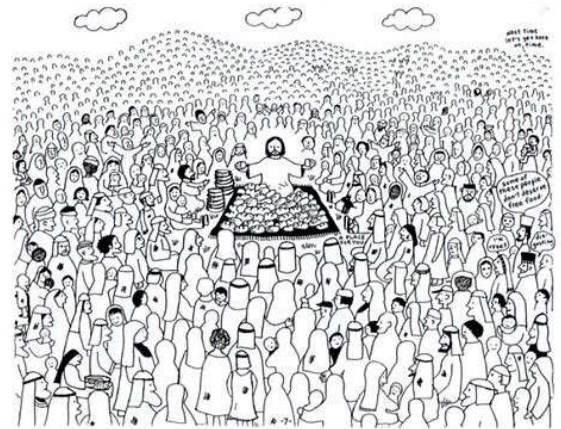
RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

Ephesians 4:1-6 – We should do all we can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds us together.

John 6:1-15 – Jesus feeds the crowd with the five barley loaves and two fish, and twelve hampers of scraps are left over.

“This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world”.

The miracle of the multiplication of bread is narrated by all four Gospel-writers, which indicates its Eucharistic importance for the early Church. In John's gospel, the miracle took place ‘near Passover’, the Jewish unleavened bread feast. When the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness and dying of hunger, God fed them with manna. Jesus declared that he himself was the bread that came “down from heaven” to give “life to the world”. Like the prophet Elisha, Jesus took the loaves of barley bread, the humble food of the poor, gave thanks (Greek, eucharisteō), broke and distributed it to the hungry people. The people's reaction: “This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world,” refers to “a prophet like Moses”. who was anticipated in the final days. However, the people looked for a Messiah who would be **king** and a **conqueror** who would drive the Romans from the land. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew to the mountain alone.



SATURDAY:	31ST AUGUST 2024 – WALSINGHAM HOUSE ANNIVERSARY MASS – SEE NEWLETTER FOR DETAILS.
SATURDAY:	31ST AUGUST 2024 – BLESSED TANSI PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT ST BERNARD ABBEY. SEE POSTERS.
WEDNESDAY:	11TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – JOURNEY OF FAITH – SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.
TUESDAY:	17TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – MASS OF CELEBRATION & THANKSGIVING HERE AT ST FRANCIS AT 6PM WITH BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS, S.M. 800 YEARS OF THE FRANCISCAN IN ENGLAND.
SATURDAY:	21ST SEPTEMBER 2024 – ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS AT BRENTWOOD – 1:30PM.
SUNDAY:	29TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AFTER 12:15 MASS.

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.

New Parishioners & Visitors
WELCOME !

We are delighted to welcome new members to our parish community! Whether you have recently moved into the area, or are visiting, we hope you find our parish a warm and welcoming place. Please make yourself known to one of the Priests after Mass.

MASS OF
CELEBRATION &
THANKSGIVING -
17th SEPTEMBER

2024 AT 6PM. There will be a Mass here at St Francis on the above date, with Bishop Alan Williams, S.M., to celebrate the 800-year anniversary of the Franciscans in the UK, also, refreshments in the Large Hall afterwards. Everyone welcome.



The Diocese of Brentwood invites all its Altar Servers and their families to the annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers at on **Saturday 21 September 2024 at 2pm** Principal celebrant Rt. Rev. Alan Williams S. M. Bishop of Brentwood

JOURNEY OF FAITH

Are you, or someone you know, thinking about becoming a member of the Catholic Church, OR wish to renew your faith, OR explore you faith further? Then The Journey of Faith is for you. Introductory session will be on **Wednesday 11th September 2024**. Contact The Parish Office, and ask for Des Hoddy, Extension 313, for further information.

PARISH OUTING TO
BROADSTAIRS - 10TH AUGUST.

Please note **3 tickets have unexpectedly become available for our Parish outing.** If any parishioner would like to come on the outing but didn't get a ticket as the seats had been sold please contact Sarah on 07778 868827 for a ticket.

Fr Brian extends his heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the sumptuous Birthday



Celebration last Sunday. The event, skilfully coordinated by Cecelia, was a true collaborative effort and had an incredible atmosphere. He is also deeply grateful for the many kind wishes, greeting cards, and gifts he received. Your generosity has been truly overwhelming.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

The **Application Forms** for First Holy Communion next year are available at the back of the Church, from the Friary Office and On-Line. Please ensure you read the covering letter, and ensure the applications have a **copy of the child's Baptism Certificate**, and that they are handed into the Friary Office or to one of the Friars **in an envelope marked "Holy Communion Application 2025"**. The Deadline for the Application is **24th September 2024**.

THE REPOSITORY

The Repository will be open **after all Sunday Masses on 4th August 2024**. Candles, Rosary Beads, etc. Cash only please. Thank you.

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

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