



***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 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024**  
**19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

We gather to share in the bread of life that is Christ himself. He is present for us in his word and his sacrament. Our faith rejoices in what we are about to celebrate. Jesus, the Bread of Life, invites us to celebrate his presence with us in his word and sacrament.

**TODAYS READINGS:**

**1 Kings 19:4-8** - God's angel sustains and encourages Elijah in his journey to his meeting with God.

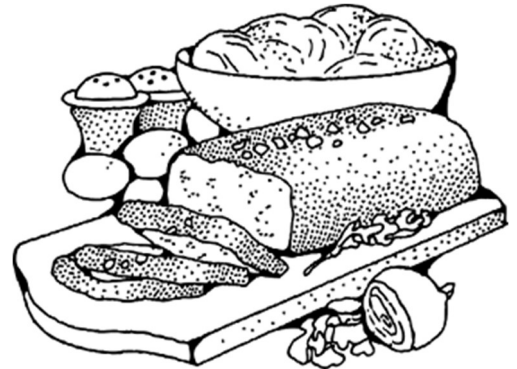
**RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:**      **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**Ephesians 4:30-5:2** - Paul calls us to imitate Christ in his compassionate love.

**John 6:41-51** - Christ reveals himself as the bread come down from heaven. Eternal life is promised to those who believe in him.

**I am the living bread which has come down from heaven**

In John 6:51 Jesus moves on from the bread that he **has** given (past tense), namely his words of teaching, to the future tense, *the bread that I shall give*. It is an important transition which announces a new meaning for the bread of life. His terminology regarding this future bread is sacrificial ... *my flesh for the life of the world*. His life will be given up in sacrifice. Eucharist is a Greek word for giving thanks and praise. The Eucharistic Prayer commences with the invitation to lift up our hearts to give praise and thanks to God. When Jesus said 'Do this in memory of me,' he invited us to participate in his sacrifice. This is the mystery of faith the death and resurrection of the Lord and our participation in that journey. In the Eucharist we have the perfect sacrifice: *Through Jesus, with him and in him, all glory and honour to you, O Father.*



<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 – THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION – MASS AT 12:15PM AND 7:30PM.</b>
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES.</b>
<b>MONDAY:</b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 – IS A BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM – NO 12:15 MASS.</b>
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 – THE CHURCH CAR PARK WILL BE CLOSED – SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.</b>
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2024 – BLESSED TANSI PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT ST BERNARD ABBEY. SEE POSTERS.</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – JOURNEY OF FAITH – SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.</b>
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – MASS OF CELEBRATION &amp; THANKSGIVING HERE AT ST FRANCIS AT 6PM WITH BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS, S.M. 800 YEARS OF THE FRANCISCAN IN ENGLAND.</b>
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS AT BRENTWOOD – 1:30PM.</b>
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AFTER 12:15 MASS.</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.

## **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.

## **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF** **THE CAR PARK.**

The Car Park will be **CLOSED FROM Tuesday 27th August, up to and including Friday 30th August, open at the weekend 31st August and 1st September then closed again on Monday 2nd September. It will re-open on Tuesday 3rd September 2024.**

## **MASS OF CELEBRATION** **& THANKSGIVING -** **17<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **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 **24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**.

## **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 your 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.

## **The Assumption of** **The Blessed Virgin Mary** **Thursday 15 August** **Mass at 12.15pm & 7.30pm** **HOLY DAY**

### **Today's Readings**

#### **Rev 11:19;12:1-6.10**

This describes the battle between God and evil, with the ultimate triumph of God.

#### **1 Cor 15:20-26**

Christ is the new Adam who undoes all the harm done by the old Adam. (The church sees Mary as the new Eve who, by her obedience to God, undoes the harm done by the old Eve)

#### **Luke 1:39-56**

Mary's visitation to Elizabeth. Her hymn of praise to God for his goodness to her and to his chosen people.

**The almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.**

The Magnificat attributes the blessed gifts of Mary to God Almighty. Elizabeth recognised three special blessings in the divine election of Mary, her **fruitfulness** and her **co-operation with grace** through her **believing**.

Christ is the first-fruit of resurrection from the dead and then come those who belong to him. Next in line, belonging to him, is his mother, who is the model or headline for the rest of the church, *the beginning and pattern of the church in its perfection*.

Celebrating Mary's attainment, we see more clearly our own divine destiny. Taken up body and soul into heaven, Mary makes us think about our bodies, consecrated in Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist: temples of the Holy Spirit.



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: stfrancisassisistatford.co.UK