



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



As a community of faith, we gather to celebrate the great gift of Christ himself in the Eucharist. To those who eat his body and drink his blood, Jesus promises the fullness of eternal life.

### **TODAYS READINGS:**

**Proverbs 9:1-6** - Wisdom, personified in the feminine, invites all to partake of a rich feast in a lavish or sacred setting which leads to a life of worth.

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

**Ephesians 5:15-20** - A prudent Christian should model their life here and now on the life to come and not be tempted by worldly charms.

**John 6:51-58** - Jesus promises eternal life to those who eat his body and drink his blood in the Eucharist.

**“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day”.**

Jesus is both word and sacrament. In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, there are two important elements in Jesus' pronouncement that he was the “bread of life”. In John 6:35-50, the “bread of life” is a figure of God's revelation in Jesus - the “word made flesh”. Beginning in verse 51, the sacramental theme becomes prominent. Just as God fed the Israelites with heavenly manna on their wilderness journey in the Exodus, so Jesus nourished the faithful with his body and blood on their spiritual journey. Jesus plainly said that his flesh was “true food” and his blood was “true drink”. The reality of these words was emphasised by the Greek word for **eating** (trogos) which mean to “gnaw” or to “munch.” Ordinary bread sustained human life, but “heavenly bread” enabled those who ate it to receive divine life. In the Eucharist, we are spiritually transformed by Christ's body and blood so we can worthily enter God's eternal reign.



<b>MONDAY:</b>	<b>26TH AUGUST 2024 – IS A BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM – NO 12:15 MASS.</b>
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>27TH AUGUST 2024 – THE CHURCH CAR PARK WILL BE CLOSED – SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>31ST AUGUST 2024 – WALSINGHAM HOUSE 40TH &amp; 60TH ANNIVERSARY – SEE NEWSLETTER.</b>
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>31ST 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>

**SATURDAY:** 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS AT BRENTWOOD – 1:30PM.  
**SUNDAY:** 29<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## **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.



## **PRAYER/ REFLECTION**

Christ be near at either hand,  
Christ behind, before me stand.  
Christ with me where e'er I go,  
Christ around, above, below.  
Christ be in my heart and mind,  
Christ within my soul enshrined.  
Christ control my wayward heart,  
Christ abide and ne'er depart.  
Christ my life and only way,  
Christ my lantern night and day.  
Christ be my unchanging friend,  
Guide and Shepherd to the end.



## **Retiring** **Collection:** **For the sick and**



## **the poor.**

## **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 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.

## **Walsingham House 40<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup>** **Anniversary Mass, 12noon on 31<sup>st</sup> August** **at Walsingham House at Abbotswick,** **Navestockside, CM14 5SH.**

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan; please bring lunch and enjoy an afternoon at the beautiful Diocesan retreat house especially for young people, just outside Brentwood. Everyone is very welcome – if you have ever been on retreat to Walsingham House, or helped as a teacher, catechist or youth leader, then do come to this very special Anniversary celebration. Mass will be offered for Fr Pat Sammon, RIP, who did so much to develop Walsingham House. More information at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

## **THE REPOSITORY**

The Repository will be open **after all Sunday Masses today.** 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 Pastoral Assistant: Derek Hoddy Tel: 0208 534 1964 Email:  
stratford@friar.org  
**Website: [stfrancisassisistratford.co.uk](http://stfrancisassisistratford.co.uk)**