



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:

SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2024
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Education Sunday.



On this Education Sunday we celebrate the work of all educators and everyone who teaches and learns in our schools and colleges. We gather today in community, giving thanks for everything we have received, and committing ourselves to pass on the Gospel of Christ to everyone we meet.

TODAYS READINGS:

Isaiah 35:4-7 - God will open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

James 2:1-5 - Belief in Christ means that we should treat everyone equally. God does not favour the rich over the poor and neither should we.

Mark 7:31-37 - Jesus heals both the body and the soul. He enables us all to see and hear more clearly.

“He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak”

Jesus went to the Gentile area of the Decapolis, a league of ten cities in eastern Palestine. There a deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him for healing. Perhaps it was the man's inability to hear that made his speech unintelligible. The gestures that Jesus used to effect the cure were used by healers of his time. Jesus put his hands in the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle, which was thought to have curative powers. Then he groaned “Be opened” (Aramaic, “Ephphatha,” still used in baptismal ceremonies today). Jesus looked to heaven, the divine source of his healing power, and with a word and touch, the man's hearing and speech were restored. He thus fulfilled the Messianic promise that “the deaf shall hear” and “the mute will sing”. Fearing his deeds might be misinterpreted as mere “wonder-working,” Jesus asked the people not to talk about this miracle. But they acted like the deaf, unable to hear his command. Even so, they were not mute in announcing his praises. This miracle performed for a Gentile was another sign that Jesus had come to bring salvation to all everyone.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
“Jesus cures a deaf man”



“He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”
Mark 7:31-37

Church of Saint Leo the Great www.stleothenew.com/childrens-corner

SUNDAY:	8TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA – MEETING 1:30 IN THE LARGE HALL.
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.
TUESDAY:	17TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – FR BRIAN & FR MICHAEL – LAST DAY AT ST FRANCIS.
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.

**NO 12:15 MASS OR NOVENA
ON TUESDAY
10TH SEPTEMBER.**

There will be NO MASS on Tuesday 10th September as all the Friars are at a meeting

ON THIS EDUCATION SUNDAY,

we give thanks to God for the work of our Catholic schools, colleges, and universities across England and Wales. These are all vital to the Church's mission, and we should be



proud of their achievements. We should all pray for everyone who contributes to Catholic education and rejoice in the dedication of our governors, leaders, and staff.

CHRIST is the foundation of the whole enterprise. He is 'the way, the truth and the life.' A Catholic Education seeks to root the Gospel of Christ in the minds of the students, promoting a formation that inspires a life-long love of learning and fosters the virtues that will assist them to discover the truth, goodness and beauty of God.

HERE, in Stratford, we are blessed with a flourishing network of Catholic schools. Our schools are popular and highly regarded.

WE always need dedicated men and women to act as Foundation Governors.

ON this Day of Prayer for Catholic Education, consider stepping forward for this role.

**The Knights of
St Columba -
Meeting Today 1:30pm.**

The Knights of St Columba will be having their meeting in the Large Hall.



1224 - 2024

**800th Anniversary of the Stigmata
800th Anniversary of the Arrival of the
first Franciscan Friars in England.**
Tuesday 17th September 2024. 6pm Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration - Bishop Alan Williams SM, followed by a reception in the Hall.

OVERSUBSCRIBED

Following "impressive" GCSE results, more than 2,000 students applied for 175 places at St Bonaventure's Sixth Form.



GARDENERS

The Monday and Friday Gardening Group is looking for new recruits for gardening and all kinds of odd-jobs. A couple of hours on a Monday or Friday morning (or both!) in a congenial environment – what could be better! Let the Parish Office know of your interest or ask at the back of the Church.



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 at 7pm in the Friary.** Contact The Parish Office, and ask for Des Hoddy, Extension 313, for further information.

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

Fr Reu Galoy, OFM

Address: The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, E15 1NS.

Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9:30am - 3pm

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