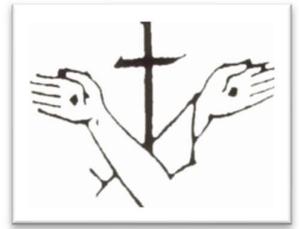




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Sii"



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12th February 2023

If we want to be true followers of Jesus we are encouraged to look below the surface of things, to get to the heart of what our belief truly asks of us.

Today's Readings:

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20: We are given the choice of life or death.

Response to the Psalm: *They are happy who follow God's law!*

1 Corinthians 2:6-10: The gift of the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Matthew 5:17-37: Our virtue must go deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees.

"Go first and be reconciled with your brother,



"You have learnt how it was said to your ancestors; but I say this to you."

Jesus was continually challenged by the religious leaders regarding the Law of Moses. Jesus said that he had come to fulfil the law, not do away with it. By his life and teachings, Jesus embodied the law, raising it to new heights and deepening its meaning. He said that obeying the external "letter" of the law was not as important as the interior spirit of fidelity to God's purpose, which was to bring people into a proper relationship with God and one another.

For example: murder was forbidden by the law, but Jesus also disapproved of anger, the motive behind murder. Jesus denounced infidelity, but he also opposed lust and permissiveness. Among Christians who were honest in their dealings with other people, a simple "Yes" or "No" was all that was needed: oaths or swearing was unnecessary. Jesus invited his disciples to move beyond "an eye for an eye" in settling of scores. He asked, can you love your enemy? Can you let go of bitterness, hatred and murderous thoughts, and

give back understanding, forgiveness, and healing? Jesus declared that anyone who even had ill-will towards someone else, should first go and be reconciled with that person before coming to the altar to worship God. Without a willingness to have one's heart changed, salvation could not be experienced.

Dates for your Diary: 15th February – NIGHTSHELTER.

22nd February – ASH WEDNESDAY MASS: 12.15pm and 7.30pm

Pray for those who have died, and those whose Anniversaries occur around this time, also, please pray for the sick, and, remember the People of Ukraine. Our thoughts and prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake.

TRAI DCRAFT STALL

The Traidcraft Stall will be open after all Sunday Masses today 12th February.

Holy Communion Candidates
MEETING TODAY 12TH FEBRUARY
For Parents/Guardians and children in
the Church at 2pm,



NOVENA

in honour of
St ANTHONY
EVERY Tuesday
after 12.15 Mass.



Yesterday was the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes **WORLD DAY OF THE SICK** Pope John Paul II initiated this day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for people who suffer from illness and for their carers. The Pope himself felt a special solidarity with the sick. On this weekend people all over the world pray for the sick and for everyone who works to alleviate the sufferings of the sick. Prayer is even more urgent at a time when we are suffering from the remnants of the Covid Virus pandemic.

PALMS

Please bring your Palms from last year to the Church to be burnt for ashes for **Ash Wednesday**.

We are looking for someone to do a bit of cooking for the three Friars at St Francis. It could, if wanted, be combined with some cleaning. Speak to one of the Friars or phone the Parish Office.

Embark on a **Luxury, All-Inclusive Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 5th – 12th September 2023**, with All Saints Travel Ltd and **Fr John Moloney**. Be face to face with the world of Jesus and His Gospel, lived out before your eyes. This pilgrimage will include a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv with Israel's national airline, EL AL (in-flight meals included), all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner every day), an executive touring coach, a professional local Christian guide, all entrance fees, all tips and gratuities (paid directly to the guide, driver and hotel staff), as well as luxurious 5* en-suite accommodation. You will stay at a 5-star hotel in Jerusalem for 4 nights and in a 5-star hotel set on the Sea of Galilee with stunning views and private beach access for 3 nights. Full details are online <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/>.

Safeguarding: We, as a Friary and as a Parish must keep this matter constantly before our eyes. We must all contribute to making a Culture of awareness and protection of the vulnerable.

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: 10:30am – 11:30am & 5pm – 5:45pm
Sunday: 6pm Saturday,
9am, 10:15am, 12 noon &
4:30pm (Ukrainian).

Fr. Patrick Lonsdale, OFM (Guardian)
Fr Michael O'Grady, OFM (Parish Priest)
Fr Brian McGrath, 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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