



# St Francis of Assisi

## Parish Newsletter

*“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart and to bring home those who have lost their way”.*  
St. Francis.



### **ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1B

**SUNDAY CYCLE: YEAR A (Matthew)**

**WEEKDAYS CYCLE: YEAR 1**

### **The 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

The Lord can calm the storms of life and bring peace. We ask him to touch our lives and make us witnesses of God’s generosity, compassion and love.

#### **Today’s Readings:**

**1 Kings 19:9. 11-13:** God was not in the great wind, the earthquake or the fire, which were the traditional manifestations of God’s presence, but in the silence.

#### **Response to the Psalm: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help,**

**Romans 9:1-5:** Paul’s concern is that his Jewish brothers and sisters should learn to accept Jesus and his teachings.

**Matthew 14:22-33:** Jesus calls to his disciples in the midst of the wild and restless sea. When they see him walk on the water they acknowledge that he is the Son of God.

#### **“O you of little faith, why did you doubt”.**

After Jesus revealed himself as the one who nourished his people with the miraculous multiplication of loaves, he demonstrated that he was victorious over the destructive powers of evil. Jesus had sent his disciples in a boat ahead of him while he went up a hill to pray. When it grew late, a turbulent storm arose on the lake. Jesus saw his disciples struggling against the winds and the waves, making little progress. As the night wore on, Jesus came toward his terrified disciples, walking on the sea, evoking the victory that enabled Israel to cross the sea into the Promised Land. Jesus told his disciples to take courage; he was with them. At Peter’s request and the command of Jesus. Peter stepped out in faith, but but he was overwhelmed by fear and began to sink beneath the waves and cried out, “Lord, save me!” Grasping Peter by the hand Jesus asked, “Why did you doubt?”. The very ones who had lacked faith now declared Jesus to be the “Son of God”. In walking on the water, Jesus shows that his power and authority are greater than anything that threatens to destroy us with doubt and fear.



#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – MASSES ARE AT 12:15PM AND 7:30PM.**

**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 – MONTHLY MEETING OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA.**

**MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 – BANK HOLIDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM – NO 12:15 MASS.**

**MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 – CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS FOR HOLY COMMUNION 2024.**

**29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – JUMBULANCE – PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.**

**MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS FOR CONFIRMATION 2024.**

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 earthquakes.



## **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

(Holy Day)

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August,  
MASSES: 12.15pm and 7.30pm.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose passing into glory assures a

place in heaven for all who put their trust in God.

### **Today's Readings**

**Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6. 10:** St John's heavenly vision promises the ultimate defeat of evil.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-26:** St Paul foretells Christ's victory over death, the greatest enemy of humankind.

**Luke 1:39-56:** Mary rejoices at the way God goes on saving people, generation after generation.

**"He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly"..**

When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, the infant John, in his mother's womb, leaped for joy before the divine presence within Mary's womb. Similarly, King David danced in jubilation before the presence of God when he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Elizabeth was overwhelmed that Mary, the mother of her Lord, should come to her. She proclaimed that Mary was "blessed among women" for trusting that the Lord's promises to her would be fulfilled. In an exultant hymn of praise, Mary rejoiced in the saving promises of her Mighty God. Through Mary's son, the meek and poor would be exalted, and the proud and powerful would be cast down. Mary recognized her own lowliness before God. She was God's humble handmaid, "servant Israel", obedient to the Lord's command. It is our hope as Christians that one day we will be raised by God to join Mary and her son in heaven.

*The Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.*

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC 966)

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024**

Forms available at back of Church, on Website and from Parish Office. **CLOSING DATE: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

## **WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023**

### **Words of Reflection from Pope Francis:**

- To listen to Jesus, that is life's secret. Listen to what Jesus is saying to you. "But I don't know what he is saying to me. Well take the Gospels and read there what Jesus is saying, what he is saying to your heart. He shows us the way of love.
- When He was among us, Jesus walked. He walked along healing the sick, caring for the poor, doing works of justice. As He walked, he preached and taught. Jesus walked. But, the journey most engraved on our hearts is the way of Calvary, the way of the Cross.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024**

Forms available at back of Church, on Website and from Parish Office.

**CLOSING DATE: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.**

## **KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA:**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 –

7pm - Monthly meeting for the local council. A special invitation for anyone who put their name down last month as new Knights. Please come along to the meeting.



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 Patrick Lonsdale, OFM (Guardian)

Fr Michael O'Grady, OFM (Parish Priest)

Fr Brian McGrath, OFM

Fr Yusuf Bagh, OFM

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

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