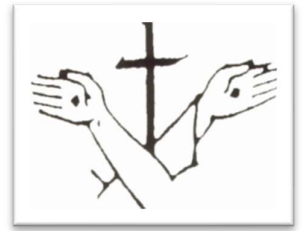




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter *"Laudato, Si"*



**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**  
**Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ**



## **SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The readings of today's Mass speak of the way the Lord calls all believers to serve his purpose of spreading the good news.

### **TODAYS READINGS:**

**Isaiah 49:3.5-6:** With God, failure is often a prelude to a greater success. Failing with Israel, the mission of Isaiah becomes a mission to the world.

**Response to the Psalm:** Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

**1 Corinthians 1:1-3:** For St Paul, the only true nation is the nation of those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**John 1:29-34:** John was born to reveal Jesus to Israel. We are to reveal him to the world.

### **"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"**

John the Baptist was a prophet sent by God to announce the coming of the Messiah. When Jesus came to him for baptism, John recognized him as the anointed one (Hebrew, mashiach). When John saw God's spirit "descending from heaven like a dove", he testified that Jesus was God's Son



who would baptise with the purifying grace of the Holy Spirit. The next day, John paid tribute to Jesus by identifying him with the significant title, the "Lamb of God". Perhaps John was thinking of the coming Passover Feast. Just as the blood of the slain lamb protected the Israelites on the

night of their escape from Egypt, Jesus, the new Paschal lamb, shed his blood for the salvation of the world. John's gospel stated that Jesus was put to death on "the day of Preparation for the Passover" when the lambs were sacrificed in the temple. Paul also thought of Jesus as the Passover Lamb. "Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed". The prophet Isaiah said that God's suffering servant was led "like a lamb that is led to the slaughter". In the book of Revelation, Jesus is portrayed as the victorious lamb who conquered evil through his death and resurrection.



**Dates for your Diary:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – NIGHT SHELTER AT ST. FRANCIS begins. 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – COMMUNION CANDIDATES – 2PM BOTH HALLS. 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – DEANERY FORMATION DAY – ALTAR SERVERS. 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – VALENTINES DAY DANCE & KARAOKE. More details next week.

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 Ukrai

**HOLY COMMUNION 2023 -  
CANDIDATES/PARENTS MEETING**  
**TODAY:**

**THERE IS A MEETING TODAY AT 2PM IN  
BOTH HALLS for all Parents, & Candidates  
who submitted their application forms.**

**Special thanks**, to Deano Foley (at  
Stratford Station) the Donor, once  
again, of our splendid Christmas Tree  
in the Church. **Special thanks also** to  
the intrepid team who both set up and decorated the  
tree.



**NIGHTSHELTER – MEETING**  
**18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 5PM**

There will be a meeting at 5pm on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023, for  
all Volunteers who are able to attend, prior to the  
commencement of the Night Shelter that evening. We  
are still in need of Volunteers, especially volunteers  
willing to cook, and volunteers who can stay overnight.  
Thank you.

**DEANERY FORMATION DAY –**  
**ALTAR SERVERS**  
**21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 10am – 2pm.**

Games, talk, training, and solemn adoration  
of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction.  
It's free, and lunch is included. Please bring  
your alb if possible. Under 18's to obtain  
parents consent to attend. RSVP is by  
Google form: scan QR code or speak to  
your parish MC by Sunday 14th January



**VALENTINE'S DANCE**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7:30pm**



The Bubbly Club and the Knights  
of St. Columba invite everyone to a Valentines Dance on  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:30pm in the Large  
Hall.

Tickets: £10 for Adults, £5 for children 3 years – 11  
years. Food and soft drinks will be provided. Please  
bring your own alcoholic beverages. See the Poster at  
the back of the Church for full details. Everyone  
welcome!

**January 18-25--WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**



A world observance since 1894, the Week  
of Prayer for Christian Unity is an  
important expression of ecumenical activity  
at the local level. The week is marked  
worldwide with prayer, Bible studies, and  
other activities, which bring the Christian

community together. The week is celebrated each January,  
usually between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – finishing on the Feast of  
the Conversion of St Paul. Christian Unity Theme The 2023  
theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, is “Do good;  
seek justice.” Based on Isaiah 1:12-17, the international theme  
calls on Christians to recognize that the divisions between our  
churches cannot be separated from the divisions within the  
wider human family. **Isaiah challenged God’s people in his  
day to learn to do good together; to seek justice together, to  
rescue the oppressed together, to defend the orphan and plead  
for the widow together.**

The prophet’s challenge applies equally to us today. How can  
we live our unity as Christians so as to confront the evils and  
injustices of our time? How can we engage in dialogue,  
increase awareness, understanding and insight about one  
another’s lived experiences?

**RETRouvaille**  
A LIFE LINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES  
as a couple?

***Has your marriage become stressed, unloving, cold?  
Do you argue more?***

***Do you want to improve your communication?***

***Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking about  
it?***

***Do you want to try again?***

***The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need!***

**Welwyn Garden City Centre**

**24 - 26 February 2023**

**or 6 - 9 July 2023**

**Info: 07887 296983**

Email: [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com)

Website: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**Complete confidentiality**

**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**

**Pastoral Assistant: Derek Hoddy**

**Tel: 0208 534 1964 Email: [stratford@friar.org](mailto:stratford@friar.org)**

**Website: [stfrancisassistratford.com](http://stfrancisassistratford.com)**

**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).**