



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 1st SEPTEMBER 2024

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

World Day of Prayer for the Care Of Creation

We are never too old to play, never too young to benefit from the wisdom of others. Life isn't about good but about being good. God is there for us, in everything that we say, think and do.



TODAYS READINGS:

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8 - Moses tells the Israelites to observe the commandments that God gave them.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

James 1: 17-18, 21,-22, 27 – We are called to authenticity, putting God's word into practice in our lives.

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 – We are again called to authenticity, not to an external following of legalistic minutiae which look good but are irrelevant to our spiritual growth,

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.

Today, after 5 Sundays with Chapter 6 of John's Gospel, we resume the reading of Mark's Gospel and we, straight away, get into a Controversy about ritual cleanliness. Mark shows us what happened in practice: to the Law of God (given through Moses) they added their own traditions and customs which came to be equally authoritative and binding. Worse, they got in the way of God's Law. Mark is also making it clear to his readers, Gentile Christians, that being a Christian does not involve them in all Jewish rituals and practices.

World Day of Prayer



For the Care of Creation

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| SUNDAY: | 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024 – THE REPOSITORY WILL BE OPEN TODAY AFTER ALL MASSES. |
| 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.

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



MASS OF CELEBRATION & THANKSGIVING - **17th 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.

FR BRIAN & FR MICHAEL

will be leaving Stratford after the Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration on Tuesday 17th September 2024. **Fr Brian** will be joining the Fraternity at Woodford, and **Fr Michael** has been appointed Chaplain at the Franciscan Retreat in Godalming, Surrey. They would like to thank you all your prayers, kindness and support over these last years.

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.



**The Knights of
St Columba**



The Knights of St Columba will be speaking at all Masses this weekend to recruit new members to The Knights.

Hope and Act with Creation,

Dear brothers and sisters. “Hope and Act with Creation” is the theme of World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation to be held on **1st September 2024**. The theme is drawn from St Pauls letter to the Romans where the Apostles explain what it means to us to live according to the Spirit and focuses on the sure hope of salvation that is born of the faith, namely, newness of life in Christ. We are believers because the very love of God “has been poured into our hearts, and the Spirit is now truly the pledge of our inheritance”.

Pope Francis.

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 **24th 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.

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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