



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. Fra



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

Seventh Sunday of Easter – 21st May 2023.

World Communication Day

Christ was the supreme broadcaster. He came to glorify God on earth and make his Father known. On this **World Communications Day**, we celebrate the role of the media in continuing his mission.

Today's Readings:

Acts 1:12-14: Jesus' disciples were known as "apostles", a word that means sent on a mission.



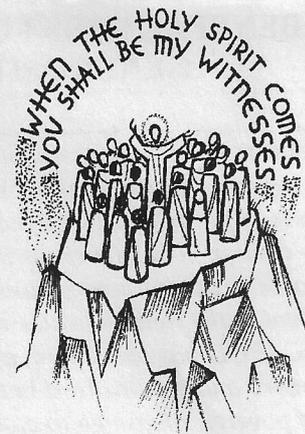
Response to the Psalm: I am sure I shall see the Lords' goodness in the land of the living.

1 Peter 4:13-16: St Peter tells us that it is a glorious thing to bear the name "Christian".

John 17:1-11: Jesus hands on his mission and prays for those to whom it has been entrusted.

"Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me",

On the threshold of his eternal glory in heaven, Jesus said an intimate prayer to his Father. It was his final prayer before his passion and death. The Church calls it the "High Priestly Prayer" as Jesus interceded on behalf of his "friends". Just as Jacob and Moses gave the last benediction to the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Gen 49), so too, Jesus blessed the Twelve Apostles, the new people of God. Jesus completed the work assigned to him by making God known to his followers. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so too Jesus sent his disciples into the world as his apostles (those who are sent). The Apostles were "consecrated" for this work, that is, they were set apart and made holy. Yet they were not removed from the world, but must do Christ's work in the world. God commanded the people of Israel to be holy (Lv.19:2). God's holy people in the Church are a means of sanctification for the entire world.



Dates for your Diary: 26TH MAY 12:15 MASS WILL BE A FUNERAL MASS FOR MR LUCIUS FRANKLYN BISCETTE. NOW UNTIL 30TH JULY 2023- The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, exhibition exploring ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. **TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCISCANS IN STRATFORD: SAT. 17th JUNE – PICNIC IN THE OLYMPIC PARK (Weather Permitting). SUN. 18th JUNE - REFRESHMENTS AFTER ALL MASSES IN THE LARGE HALL. WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE THANKSGIVING MASS – 7PM. 29th JULY 2023 – PARISH COACH TRIP TO THE SEA SIDE - WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE – 29TH July £10 per person/£5 for children & children 2 years & under (who do not take up a seat) Free – see next weeks Newsletter for full details on booking your place(s).**

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.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist:
The Concluding Rites
WE ARE SENT



In the Concluding Rites, we are sent out, receiving God's blessing to be his presence in the world. Why is 'Mass' called 'Mass'? It comes from the Latin words of the dismissal at the very end of Mass – 'Ite, missa est'. 'Go, the Mass is ended'. We are sent out in peace to love and serve the Lord. We've all got a mission to announce the Gospel of the Lord and glorify him in our lives. This means that our 'Amen' to the Lord in Holy Communion is to be an 'Amen' to him in everyone in the world in which we live. We have too see him in other people and serve him in other people, so that what we celebrate at the Altar becomes a reality in our daily lives until we can gather again to celebrate the Eucharist, our great thanksgiving to almighty God. Jesus himself is the living bread that gives life to the world. 'But the Eucharist does not end with the partaking of the Body and Blood of the Lord. It leads us to solidarity with other people. Our communion with the Lord is necessarily a communion with our fellow brothers and sisters. And, therefore, the person who is fed and nourished by the body and blood of Christ cannot remain unaffected when he sees his brothers and sisters suffering want and hunger. People nourished by the Eucharist are called to bring the joy of the gospel to those who have not received it. Strengthened by the living Bread we are called to bring hope to people who live in darkness and in despair'

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
BENEFACTORS FOR THEIR
GENEROSITY.**

Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that "Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace." For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to cafod.org.uk/latest_campaigns

St Francis at National Gallery

Major Exhibition
6 May to 30 July
10am to 6pm

FREE

Well worth a visit!

**MONDAY 29TH MAY 2023 IS
"SPRING BANK HOLIDAY" -
MASS WILL BE AT 10am -
NO 12:15pm MASS.**

21st June 1873 – June 2023

**150 years of the Franciscans serving
the people of Stratford.**

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Parish celebrations to mark this Anniversary:

Saturday June 17: Picnic in the Olympic Park (weather permitting).- meet at the Timberlodge Café in the Olympic Park at 12 noon.

Sunday June 18: Refreshments in the Large Hall, after all Masses.

Wednesday June 21: Thanksgiving Mass 7pm, followed by a reception in the Large Hall.

"An intimate friendship with Christ.

**THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE
EASTER TALKS AT STRATFORD**

explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. Wednesday 24th May 7.30pm - 9pm. The next talk, at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1BJ will be by Fr Stewart Foster - "Holiness in our local Saints and Martyrs". A warm welcome. We are most grateful to the Brentwood Diocesan Vicariate for Adult Formation for reaching out, with these talks, to the London area of the Diocese.

Calais Light the refugee charity invites you to join their 7-9th July convoy & help refugees directly by volunteering with the NGOs that support them. Its their 23rd trip and volunteers, experienced continental drivers (& cars) are urgently needed. Everything is booked for you - £95 all in. You'll never regret helping refugees. Especially now. To register: www.calaislight.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: 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

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

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

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