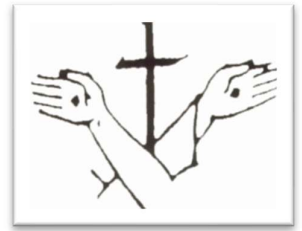




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Si"



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 22nd January 2022

For a people in darkness Isaiah foretells a great light – a prince of peace who will free us from all oppression. Jesus in Galilee fulfils this promise

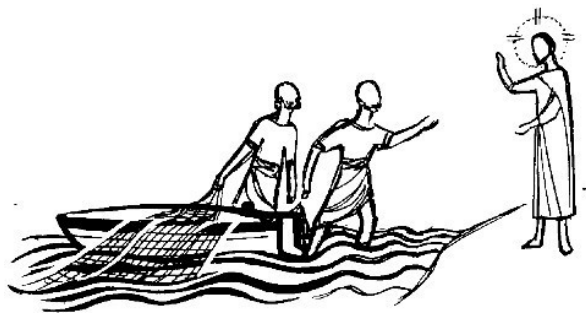
TODAYS READNGS:

Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3: People who once suffered invasion and war will one day be blessed with the joy of true light and liberty.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my light and my help.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13: Paul appeals for unity among the followers of the Lord.

Matthew 4:12-23: Jesus begins his mission in Galilee with the light of his teaching and his healing power.



"Follow me, and I will make you into fishers of men".

When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod Antipas, he withdrew from Nazareth (in the region of Zebulun), and moved north to Capernaum (in the region of Naphtali). Matthew saw this move as fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy that a "great light" would shine on this land in darkness (Is 8:23-9:1). The northern territory of these two pairs of "brothers" (Zebulun and Naphtali) was the first to

fall during the Assyrian invasion (733-32 BCE). The area was repopulated by Gentiles (2 Kgs 17:24), and thereafter was considered heathen by devout Jews in Judah in the south. Jesus called two pair of brothers as his first disciples: Peter and Andrew, and James and John, who responded "immediately". Discipleship was more than being instructed by the master. Jesus called his disciples to share an intimate relationship with him, by learning from his example, participating in his mission and being dedicated to him to the point of death. These first disciples were totally committed as they left home, family and work in order to follow Jesus. These were only the first steps on a long and difficult road.



Dates for your Diary: 11th 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 Ukraine.



THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Sunday of the Word of God was started by Pope Francis to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time. It reminds us all of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the word of God and the liturgy: "As Christians, we are one people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day

devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with Sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness".



VALENTINE'S DANCE 11th February 2023 7:30pm



The Bubbly Club and the Knights of St. Columba invite everyone to a Valentines Dance on Saturday 11th 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 18th and 25th –

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?

Following the Inspection by OFSTED
**Inspectors and
His Majesty's Inspectors
St Bonaventure's School**
was adjudged



OUTSTANDING in ALL areas.

Overall effectiveness	✓
Outstanding	
The quality of education	✓
Outstanding	
Behaviour and attitudes	✓
Outstanding	
Personal development	✓
Outstanding	
Leadership and management	✓
Outstanding	
Sixth-form provision	✓
Outstanding	
<i>Previous inspection grade</i>	✓
Outstanding	

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED:

Someone studying in the area is looking to rent a 2-bedroom flat or house. If you know of anyone renting property, please contact the Parish Secretary. Thank you.

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

Pastoral Assistant: Derek Hoddy

Tel: 0208 534 1964 **Email:** stratford@friar.org

Website: stfrancisassistratford.com