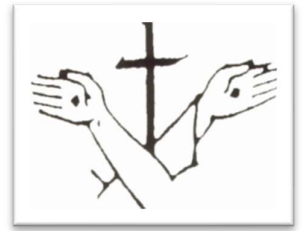




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “*Laudato, Si*”



## **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
of  
Ordinary  
Time

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th January 2023**

A lot of people are searching for peace and contentment in their lives. We need a guide we can trust. Jesus is that guide. In today's Mass, he teaches us the way to find true happiness.

### **TODAYS READINGS:**

**Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13:** The day of judgement will leave a humble remnant to enjoy the earth in peace.

**Response to the Psalm:** How blessed are the poor in spirit:  
Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31:** In choosing “nobodies”, God makes a nonsense of our human scale of values.

**Matthew 5:1-12:** Jesus teaches that only a life of integrity can bring true and lasting happiness.

**“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven”.**


The Sermon on the Mount is a summary of Jesus' teaching to his disciples on various aspects of Christian conduct. Matthew depicted Jesus as the authoritative teacher who, like Moses, went up a mountain to proclaim God's law. In the Beatitudes, Jesus reversed expectations of people who were thought to be fortunate – the rich, powerful, and content people. He announced that true happiness was not found in wealth and power. In contrast, Jesus exalted the poor, the suffering, and persecuted, which in the time of Jesus was thought to be punishment for sin. This anawim, the poor and outcast, exemplified the attitude of trust and humility needed to enter God's reign. These poor lacked the basic necessities of life, and they had no prestige or reputation to uphold.

Because they knew they had nothing, they trusted God to provide for all their needs. Jesus promised reward for all who were compassionate and just, and who humbly sought God's will while enduring hardships because of him. The “blessedness” that Jesus promised his disciples was not some future glory; it was a blessedness that existed then and there. Jesus' life exemplified every Beatitude. Jesus himself was poor, gentle, and meek. He grieved over sin and hungered and thirsted for God's justice. He was merciful and single-hearted in his desire to do God's will. Jesus suffered persecution and died to bring about God's reign on earth.



**Dates for your Diary:** 1st February 2023 – NIGHT SHELTER. 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 –  
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES MEETING IN THE LARGE HALL at 7pm. 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
– VALENTINES DAY DANCE & KARAOKE. See the poster at the back of the Church for details.

**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 PRESENTATION OF  
THE LORD  
CANDLEMAS DAY  
2 February  
Blessing of the Candles**

**Reading: Malachi 3:1-4;  
Hebrews 2:14-18;  
Luke 2:22-40.**

**‘A light to enlighten the gentiles  
And the glory of my people Israel’.**

**NIGHT SHELTER – 1st February 2023.**

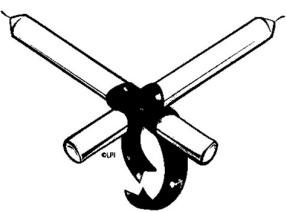
Thank you to all those who helped and support the Night Shelter, the first of this year's Shelters was successful and the **next Night Shelter is on Wednesday February 1st 2023.**

**Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland**  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum.  
Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**Friday 3 February**

**St Blaise**

**Blessing of Throats -  
- after Mass**




**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.




**Has Covid put you under more stress  
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**

**CONFIRMATION 2023 –  
CANDIDATES MEETING:**  
There is a meeting for all Confirmation Candidates and their Parents/Guardians for those under 18 year, in the Large Hall on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 at 7pm.**



**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!

**Safeguarding:** We, as a Friary and as a Parish must keep this matter constantly before our eyes. We must all contribute to making a Culture of awareness and protection of the vulnerable.

**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](mailto:stratford@friar.org)  
Website: [stfrancisassisiatratford.com](http://stfrancisassisiatratford.com)****