



# 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. Francis.



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

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ



### **Fifth Sunday of Easter – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

We are the “living stones” making up the body of Christ here on earth. As such we are invited to trust our future to Christ who is our way to the Father. Today we hear Jesus tell his disciples that he is “the Way, the Truth and the Life”. Let us ask forgiveness for our failure to follow his way.

### **Today’s Readings:**

**Acts 6:1-7:** Trusting in the Holy Spirit, the Church grows in number.

**Response to the Psalm:** May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

**1 Peter 2:4-9:** Christ is the cornerstone of our faith.

**John 14:1-12:** Jesus tells his disciples not to be troubled. He will show us the way.

### **"I am the way; I am truth, and life".**



When Judas went off to betray Jesus, he left the light and went out into the darkness (night, Jn 13:30). Then Jesus spoke to his disciples, preparing them for his departure from this world. Jesus consoled his grieving disciples and strengthened their faith in him. He insisted on the necessity of faith, telling them that if they believed in God, they should believe in him. He told them to have confidence in his promise that they would dwell eternally with him. Jesus was the way to God; he revealed the truth of God; and he gave them the abundant life of God. Jesus likened heaven



to a mansion in which there were a lot of rooms. He was going to prepare a place for his faithful disciples there, and he would return to take them with him (the parousia = coming). As the Lord of the world, Jesus would continue to intercede on behalf of those who had faith in him. He would empower them to do even greater works in his name.

**Dates for your Diary:** . MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY – MASS WILL BE AT 10AM. 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY – 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023– The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, exhibition exploring ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. **TO CELEBRATE THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCISCANS IN STRATFORD:** SAT. 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – PICNIC IN THE OLYMPIC PARK (Weather Permitting). SUN. 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE REFRESHMENTS AFTER ALL MASSES IN THE LARGE HALL. WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE **THANKSGIVING MASS AT 7:30PM.** 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 – PARISH COACH TRIP TO THE SEA SIDE - WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE – Watch for more info.

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

**12:15 MASS ON WEDNESDAY  
10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023.**

There will be **NO MASS** on  
Wednesday this week.  
The Priests are away at a Meeting.

**Monday – Bank Holiday  
Mass on Monday (8<sup>th</sup> May) at 10.am.  
No mass at 12.15pm.**

**St Francis Leprosy Guild:  
Eileen Murray of the St Francis Leprosy  
Guild will be speaking about the Guild at  
each Mass on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

**21<sup>st</sup> June 1873 – June 2023**

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

**“We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what  
has fallen apart and to bring home those who have  
lost their way”.**

St  
Francis

**Parish celebrations to mark  
this Anniversary:**

**Saturday June 17: Picnic in the Olympic Park  
(weather permitting). Sunday June 18: Refreshments  
in the Large Hall, after all Masses. Wednesday June  
21: Thanksgiving Mass at 6pm not 7:30pm as  
originally stated.**



***At the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square.  
Saint Francis of Assisi 6 May – 30 July.  
Ground Floor Galleries***

The first major UK art exhibition to explore  
Saint Francis of Assisi: his life and his  
legacy. This special exhibition presents the art and  
imagery of Saint Francis (1182–1226) from the 13th  
century to today. This exhibition looks at why this saint  
is a figure of enormous relevance to our time due to his  
spiritual radicalism, commitment to the poor, and love  
of God and nature, as well as his powerful appeals for  
peace, and his openness to dialogue with other  
religions.

***This exhibition occurs during the time when  
we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the Franciscans coming to Stratford  
(21 June 1873).***

**THE EXHIBITION IS FREE! 6 May – 30 July 2023  
Open daily 10am–6pm. Friday until 9pm**

*“An intimate friendship with Christ.”*

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

explore what it means to have  
an intimate friendship with Christ.  
Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 - 9pm  
at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1BJ.  
First talk, **“Calling on the name of Jesus,”**  
by Fr Martin Boland,  
Dean of Brentwood Cathedral.  
A warm welcome.  
We are most grateful to the  
Brentwood Diocesan Vicariate for Adult Formation  
For reaching out, with these three talks,  
to the London area of the Diocese.

The Mass 5 (of a series):

**The Liturgy of The  
Eucharist: 1. *WELCOME*  
2. *RECEIVE*.**



***WERECOME*** (cont).

What if I cannot receive Holy Communion? If you  
have not made your First Holy Communion, or if  
for another reason you cannot receive Holy  
Communion, a lot of people like to go forward to  
receive a blessing, indicating their intention by  
crossing their arms. We all receive God’s blessing  
at the end of Mass, but processing to the Altar is a  
way of making ‘a spiritual communion’ –and  
getting young children used to processing to the  
Altar with their families. Remember the ‘AMEN’  
after the blessing! What do we do when we get  
back to our seats? We should kneel or sit and make  
our thanksgiving, either by singing the hymn or by  
praying quietly., *‘O Sacrament most holy, O  
Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving  
be every moment thine,’* or *‘Lord Jesus, make me a  
better person, more considerate towards others,  
more honest with myself and more faithful to 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: 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**

**Parish Secretary: Kathleen Allen**

**Pastoral Assistant: Derek Hoddy**

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