



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



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH
Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin – 14th August 2022



In today's Gospel, Mary journeys to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary must have wondered, as she carried this new life within her, what the future held for herself and her child. Travelling in haste into the hill country, Mary is anxious to share her news with someone who understands how she feels, someone who is experiencing the same joy and possibly the same uncertainty as she is. Elizabeth's greeting confirms for Mary that she is carrying the Lord, the anointed one – the Messiah for whom the people of Israel have been waiting. Elizabeth is overwhelmed by the coming of the mother of the Lord to visit her, so much so that the child in her womb leapt for joy. Elizabeth goes on to say of Mary, “blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled”.

Today's Readings

Apocalypse: 11:19; 12:1-6. 10: A woman adorned with sun, moon and stars gives birth to a child.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26: In Christ, we are raised from the dead and brought to new life.

Gospel Luke 1:39-56: Mary is blessed among women. She proclaims God's greatness.

"He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones

When Mary visited her kinswoman Elizabeth, the infant John, in his mother's womb, leaped for joy before the divine presence within Mary's womb. Similarly, King David danced in jubilation before the presence of God when he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Elizabeth was overwhelmed that Mary, the mother of her Lord, should come to her. She proclaimed that Mary was "blessed among women" for trusting that the Lord's promises to her would be fulfilled. In an exultant hymn of praise, Mary rejoiced in the saving promises of her Mighty God. Through Mary's son, the meek and poor would be exalted, and the proud and powerful would be cast down. Mary recognized her own lowliness before God. She was God's humble handmaid, "servant Israel", obedient to the Lord's command. It is our hope as Christians that one day we will be raised by God to join Mary and her son in heaven.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: First Holy Communion Application Forms to be returned to the Parish Office by 19th September 2022. 16th & 17th October – The Relics of St. Bernadette at Brentwood. 18th & 19th October – The Relics of St. Bernadette at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. All of the following sessions at St Francis Hall, Stratford are open to all Newham Parishes & begin after the 10am Mass: Sat 24 Sep: Evangelisation Day. Sat 26 Nov: Day for Lectors

Pray for those who have died, and whose Anniversaries occur around this time, also, please pray for the sick, and, remember the People of Ukraine.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL TODAY
AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES.

THE BUBBLY CLUB
River Thames Boat Trip - 26th August 2022

FULL DETAILS NEXT WEEK.

Everyone Welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

Application Forms are available at the back of the Church, on the Website, and from the Parish Office. The closing date **FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2022.**



THE DOGMA OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The **Feast** of the Assumption of Mary is centuries-old. The **Dogma** of the Assumption was officially defined by Pope

Pius XII in 1950 who declared that Mary was "full of grace" from the time of her conception and was thus preserved from the consequences of sin and corruption after death (*Munificentissimus Deus*). As an infallible pronouncement, the Dogma of the Assumption is thus a belief for all Catholics. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians" [# 966]. "Everything we affirm about Mary; we affirm for the sake of her Son. Every grace we ascribe to Mary; we ascribe as coming from her Son. Every privilege we acknowledge in Mary; we acknowledge as granted by her Son. Exalting the Mother does not diminish the Son in any way --- any more than the moon detracts from the sun by reflecting its light. Rather, the moon reflects the light of the sun and magnifies its radiant glory.

10 KEY QUOTES EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD REFLECT ON:

from Pope Francis' apostolic letter on the liturgy,

"Desiderio desideravi".

The pope's newest apostolic letter reflects on the meaning of baptism, our understanding of mystery, inadequate liturgical approaches, the art of celebrating the liturgy and more... 'I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer ...'

5. A celebration that does not evangelize.

A celebration that does not evangelize is not authentic, just as a proclamation that does not lead to an encounter with the risen Lord in the celebration is not authentic. And then both of these, without the testimony of charity, are like sounding a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (1 Cor 13:1).

6. Symbolic illiteracy. *So, the question I want to pose is how can we become once again capable of symbols? How can we again know how to read them and be able to live them?*

TO BE CONTINUED.

invitation: The Franciscan Community invite enquiries from young people aged 18-35 years interested in the religious and/or priestly life? If interested, please contact Fr. Donal as well as via email: brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk (Franciscan website: friar.org).

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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 Blessed Sacrament until 11:30am.

Confession: 10:30am — 11:30am

Sunday: 6pm Saturday, 9am, 10:15am, 12

noon & 4.30pm (Ukrainian)

Confessions: Sat: 10.30 - 11.30am & 5 - 5.45pm

Friars in Residence: Fr Patrick Lonsdale OFM

(Guardian), Fr Donal Walsh OFM, Fr Brian McGrath OFM, Fr Michael O'Grady OFM (Parish Priest),

Address: The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, London 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: stfrancisassisiatstratford.com