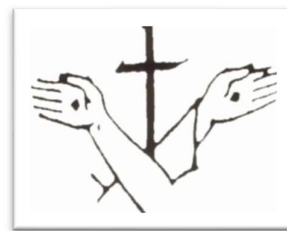




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Si"



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

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022

We come to St Francis Church today to listen to the Good News – of God with us – just as the people who went before us heard the Good News. We also come to be thankful for the Lord's continuing presence – and to take him out to the world.



### Today's Readings

**Isaiah 7:10-14:** The people should not put God to the test, but they will be given a miraculous sign.

**Romans 1: 1-7:** The promise of God is revealed in God's Son and it is his Good News that the faithful are to take out to the world.

**Matthew 1:18-24:** The world is turned upside down but we need not be fearful.

**Response to the Psalm:**      **Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.**

**"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel".**

Matthew's gospel has the most distinctive Jewish characteristics of all the Gospels. He begins with a genealogy to show that Jesus shared ancestry with the people of Israel. Jesus was the long-anticipated "Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham".

Luke's nativity is told from Mary's perspective, Matthew's point of view was Joseph, to whom she was betrothed. Betrothal was a solemn commitment, which lasted a full year, and could only be terminated by divorce. Before Mary and Joseph lived together as husband and wife, she was found to be with child. Joseph was a "righteous man" who followed the Mosaic Law, but he decided to divorce her quietly as he was unwilling to expose her to public disgrace (Deut 22:23-24).



Just as the patriarch Joseph received divine communication through dreams (Gen 37:5-9), the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. He was told not to fear taking Mary as his wife as the child had been conceived through God's Spirit. Joseph accepted guardianship of the child who would be named Jesus ("Yahweh saves"). Through Joseph, Jesus would bear the messianic title "Son of David". Jesus is "Emmanuel," which means, "God with us" the incarnate Son of God who dwells with his people to the end of the age.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Confessions from 10:30am – 12:30pm & 4:00pm – 5:45pm.**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Confessions from 10:30 – 11:30 only.**

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – NIGHT SHELTER AT ST. FRANCIS begins.**

**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.**

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2022-23

### CONFESSIONS

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am - 12.30pm & 4 - 5.45pm**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30-11.30am.** (No confessions before 6pm Mass. (Confessions also available, by appointment, at The Friary, 160 The Grove, E15 1NS Tel: 020 8534 1964).

### MASSES

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December Mass - 10am**

### CHRISTMAS

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 10am**

**(First Mass of Christmas - 6pm**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Night Mass of Christmas) 9pm (Carols at 8pm)**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)**

**9am, 10:15am, 12noon & 3pm (Ukrainian)**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December (St Stephen) - Mass at 10am.**

**From Tuesday 27 December to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Mass will be at 10am**

**New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December Mass at 6pm**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January Masse 9am, 10@15am, 12 noon & 4.30pm (Ukrainian)**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January (2023) (Bank Holiday) Mass at 10am**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Daily Mass returns to 12:15pm**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Holyday - Mass at 12.15pm & 7.30pm**



### WINTER

In the northern hemisphere, winter begins on the day the Sun is farthest south (on **December 21st or 22nd**). This waning of the sun is known as the Winter Solstice. The

Romans celebrated "The Feast of the Invincible Sun" on this day. For Christians, Christ is the Invincible Son. In the Southern hemisphere, winter and summer solstices are exchanged so that the winter solstice is the day on which the Sun is farthest north.

**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).**

### Friars in Residence:

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:

strfrancisassistratford.com

We need **Readers, Ministers of Communion** and **Stewards** for all 5 Christmas Masses (6pm, 9pm, 9am, 10.15am and 12noon). When you have decided which Mass you are attending, please give the Parish Office notice (0208 534 1964 – Mon

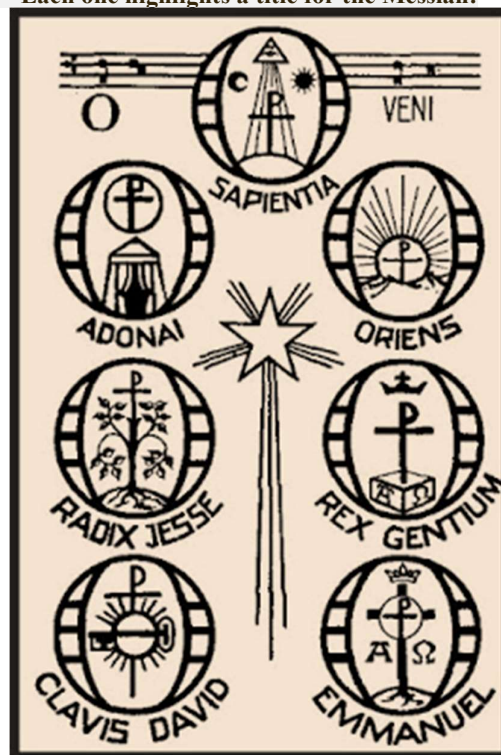


to Fri 9.30am to 3pm) of your availability. Altar Servers will also be needed at all Masses and if anyone can assist as Sacristan they will be as welcome as Santa Claus!

### The O ANTIPHONS, December 17-23

The seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for Christmas 'O Emanuel'. The Gospel Acclamation for weekday Masses from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December use the same text (without the 'O's'!

**Each one highlights a title for the Messiah:**



O Sapientia (O Wisdom),

O Adonai (O Sacred Lord),

O Radix Jesse (O Flower of Jesse's Stem),

O Clavis David (O Key of David),

O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn),

O Rex Gentium (O King of all Nations),

O Emmanuel.

Each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah. The "O Antiphons" were first used by the Church in the 8th and 9th centuries. In these "O Antiphons" the Church expresses her longing for the coming of the Messiah. The Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is based on the "O Antiphons."