



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

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London, E15 1BJ

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23rd July 2023

Sunday Cycle: Year A (Matthew). Weekdays: Year 1

God is good, and God's goodness is to be seen especially in God's justice and patience. Today's parable encourages us to imitate God in justice and mercy.

Today's Readings:

Wisdom 12:13. 16-19: God, who is all-powerful, shows strength in gentle judgement.

Response to the Psalm:

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Romans 8:26-27: God understands our weakness and the Spirit expresses our yearning.

Matthew 13:24-43: The world, God's field of wheat, is invaded with darnel weed. Let it grow till harvest time.



Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?"

Jesus was a good teacher. He used stories about the ordinary things of life to reveal the deep mysteries of God's reign. The parables often centered on the domestic, and agricultural work of the community. These parables aroused curiosity and invited Jesus' audience to search for the meaning, which often applied to their own lives. The parable of the weeds among the wheat revealed that good and evil would exist alongside one another until the Day of Judgment. The weed in the story was darnel, a noxious plant that closely resembled wheat. In the early stages of development, it was impossible to distinguish the one *Let them both grow till the harvest* from the other. When the wheat ripened, the experienced eye would be able to differentiate between the two. The problem was that the roots were so intertwined that the weeds could not

be uprooted without tearing up the wheat. So it is with evil; it is difficult to detect in its early stages until it grows strong and destroys what is good. Jesus cautioned the disciples not to attempt to forcibly root out the unbelievers among their fellow Jews. The harvest was a common Old Testament symbol for the final judgment. Jesus' advice was patient tolerance until God would render his verdict on saint and sinner.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SATURDAY 29th JULY 2023 - COACH TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE. THE COACH LEAVES THE CHURCH AT 9:30AM, AND LEAVES WALTON AT 4:30PM.

1ST - 6TH AUGUST 2023 - WORLD YOUTH DAY IN LISBON.

5TH AUGUST - WORLD YOUTH DAY AT HOME - SEE POSTER AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

MONDAY 29TH AUGUST 2023 - BANK HOLIDAY - MASS WILL BE AT 10AM - NO 12:15 MASS.

MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023 - CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS FOR HOLY COMMUNION 2024.

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 earthquakes.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Forms available at back of Church, on Website and from Parish Office.

CLOSING DATE: Monday 18th September 2023.

Uniform for St Bonaventure's

School blazers, white shirts, black school trousers, school shoes, ties, PE kit etc in **good** condition. Drop off Boleyn Rd or at our Parish Office in the Grove.

VOLUNTEERS

Tea/Coffee/Sandwiches at Friary door – especially **Thursday or Friday.**



Portugal (2nd August to 6th August 2023)

It was announced during the closing Mass of the Panama 2019 World Youth Day that the next event would be held in Lisbon in 2022.

The pope reiterated an earlier statement that either he or his successor would attend. On 20 April 2020, however, the event was postponed to August 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic "and its consequences for the movement and gathering of young people and families".

Four young people from St Francis Parish are representing us at World Youth Day in Portugal.



Walton-on-Naze - Coach trip 29 July.

The coach is full. For those who have secured a place please note: **The coach will leave from St Francis Church at 09.30 am. Please be on time.**

There is no toilet on the coach as it is a relatively short journey. The Church toilet will be open from 09.00 am to allow anyone to use the facility before we start off. If required, the coach driver will stop on the way if anyone needs another toilet stop. Please note this will be for use of toilet only and not to buy refreshments so as not to delay arrival in Walton. There will be plenty of opportunity to buy refreshments when we arrive.

The coach will leave Walton at 4.30 pm for return to the church. If anything is unclear please call Sarah on 07778 868827. Looking forward to seeing you all on 29th.

The Jumbalance Trust: New pilgrimage date: Lourdes 2023: 29 September – 6 October. £1,100. All Inclusive: travel, half-board accommodation and day-trips. Some help may be available and fundraising ideas.

For children, young people and adults who need assistance. Custom-built coach with all mod cons, wheel-chair access etc. Helpers needed, with or without experience.

Contact: Caroline Southgate 07775773805 or info@jumbalance.org.uk.

Friary Cook: Negotiable hours. £11.95 an hour.

The Newham Deanery

Patron St Francis of Assisi,

- * Canning Town, * East Ham, * Forest Gate,
- * Manor Park, * Royal Docks, * Stratford,
- * Upton Park.

We need a small group of volunteers to distribute a new 'info leaflet' in our 1/7th of the Deanery.

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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

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