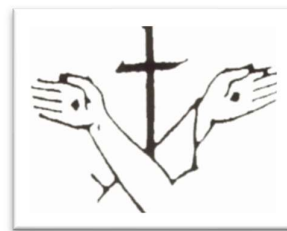




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “*Laudato, Si*”



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

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2023
MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.

Today's Readings

Numbers 6:22-27: We are beloved and blessed by God our Father.

Response to the Psalm: O God, be gracious and bless us.

Galatians 4:4-7: As adopted children of God our Father, we are sisters and brothers in Christ.

Luke 2:16-21: Following the angelic announcement of his birth, the shepherds come to visit the infant Jesus. Mary treasures all these events in her heart.



NEW YEAR'S DAY: Mary, the Holy Mother of God **“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart”**

Mary and Joseph obeyed the law of Rome by going to Bethlehem to register for the census. They obeyed the religious law of Israel by having their child circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. In this ceremony, the child entered into the life of the Jewish community and received his name: Jesus (Hebrew: *Yeshua*, “Yahweh saves”). Jesus' mother Mary was the model disciple who received the Word of God with faith and pondered its meaning in her heart. The Church regards Mary as both the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. In Genesis 3:15, we have what is known as the “first gospel”, God's promise of redemption after the fall of Adam and Eve: “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.” The Church sees this as a prophecy of Jesus' victory over the devil on the Cross. Further, Eve is also described as “the mother of all the living”. Through grace—in Christ—Mary becomes our mother; the mother of all the living not in the order of nature, but in the order of supernatural grace.



Dates for your Diary: The Parish Office is closed until 4th January 2023. Friday 6th January 2023 – Feast of the Epiphany – Holy Day of Obligation – Masses: 12:15 & 7:30pm. 18th 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

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS OR
VALUABLES UNATTENDED DURING MASS.
THANK YOU.

Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord
Holy Day

Following the example of the magi, we gather to worship the new born king, celebrating both the gifts we have been given and the gifts we have to offer in service to him and our fellow travellers on the journey of faith.



Today's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6: The glory of the Lord draws all creation towards him in joy.

Response to the Psalm: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6: The Lord makes God's covenantal relationship open to all the nations.

Matthew 2:1-12: The magi journey to visit the new born Christ.

Masses: 12.15pm
7.30pm

**The 7.30pm Mass will be followed by
a short Carols singing by our Ukrainian
children.**



Wise Men
Seek Him Still



Thank you.

*The Friars at St Francis would like to express
our sincere thanks to you for your generous
Christmas Offerings and for so many other
personal gifts, good wishes, cards and for all
the love and encouragement you give us.*

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*May the Lord let his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord uncover his face to you and
bring you peace.*

**The Parish Office is closed until
Wednesday 4th January 2023.**

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

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