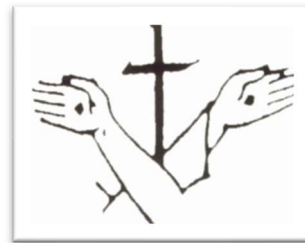




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter “*Laudato, Si*”



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



## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022

God is uniting humanity. This is God's purpose. Yet the unity of humankind will be a unity of individuals. Each one of us has got to ask ourselves: are our lives bringing us into that unity, or are we separating ourselves from our own humanity?

### Today's Readings

**Isaiah 66:18-21:** The Church must be the Church of all the world, or it is not the Church of God.

**RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:** Go out to the whole world.  
Proclaim the Good News.

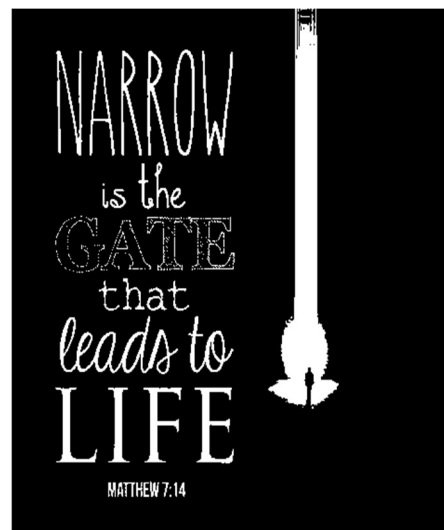
**Hebrews 12:5-7. 11-13:** There is no healing without change. The Father is healing us by changing us.

**Luke 13:22-30 :** The narrow door makes us concentrate on the entry, not the door itself.

**Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not be able".**

***Luke Chapter 13***

As Jesus journeyed toward Jerusalem, he stressed the urgency of answering God's call. Someone asked, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?". They were certain that the kingdom of God was for the Jews and that the Gentiles would be shut out. Jesus declared that entry to God's reign was not automatic but the result of a strenuous effort (Greek, *agonia*, to "agonize" or "struggle"). The door to the kingdom was the narrow way through which disciples had got to pass with extraordinary determination. The door would not remain open indefinitely. The faithless ones who delayed their conversion would not be admitted, while the faithful would be welcomed to share fellowship with the saints of old. Since those to whom the invitation was first extended rejected Jesus (the Jews), others would take their place (the Gentiles). They would come from the four corners of the earth to share the banquet in God's eternal reign.



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** First Holy Communion Application Forms to be returned to the Parish Office by 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October – The Relics of St, Bernadette at Brentwood. 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR  
BAGS AND VALUABLES  
UNATTENDED AT MASS.**

**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 ...'

**7. Uniformity in worship**

*Everybody doing together the same gesture,  
everyone speaking together in one voice — this  
transmits to each individual the energy of the entire  
assembly. It is a uniformity that not only does not  
deaden but, on the contrary, educates individual  
believers to discover the authentic uniqueness of  
their personalities not in individualistic attitudes  
but in the awareness of being one body.*

**8. The art of celebration**

*We could say that there are different "models" of  
presiding. Here is a possible list of approaches,  
which even though opposed to each other,  
characterize a way of presiding that is certainly  
inadequate: rigid austerity or an exasperating  
creativity, a spiritualizing mysticism or a practical  
functionalism, a rushed briskness or an  
overemphasized slowness, a sloppy carelessness or  
an excessive finickiness, a superabundant  
friendliness or priestly impassibility. Granted the  
wide range of these examples, I think that the  
inadequacy of these models of presiding have a  
common root: a heightened personalism of the  
celebrating style which at times expresses a poorly  
concealed mania to be the centre of attention.*

TO BE CONTINUED

**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 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

**THE BUBBLY CLUB**

**River Thames Boat Trip to  
Battersea Power Station - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Meeting Place: 10:30am outside  
Stratford Station by the Steam Train.**

**Price for adults 60 plus - £9.75**

**Price for Adults under 60 - £12.50**

**Please bring a Packed Lunch with you.**

**EVERYONE WELCOME.**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Many apologies for there not being a formal rota at  
present. I will put a list of those Ministers who  
have responded to my requests, at the back of the  
Church. Meanwhile, please continue to respond to  
the Priests' requests for Ministers to come forward  
during Mass – only one Minister is required.

Watch out for dates of meetings, recruitment and  
training.

*Derek Hoddy – Pastoral Assistant.*

**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

**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](mailto:brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk) (Franciscan website: [friar.org](http://friar.org)).