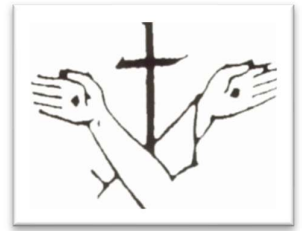




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter *"Laudato, Si"*



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



27th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – 2ND OCTOBER 2022

God's Spirit of love is at work in all our lives. Let us be bold and use the gifts God has given us. Let us fan the flames of faith to serve others and to serve the common good. Accepting God's gift of faith, we ask to be inspired to share God's love, generosity and hope.

Today's Readings

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4: The prophet is overwhelmed by all the violence he sees and asks why God tolerates evil deeds.

Response to the Psalm: **O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts'.**

2 Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14: Paul teaches that "the spirit of timidity" does not come from God and that we should not be ashamed of our testimony to Jesus Christ.

Luke 17:5-10: Proximity to Jesus does not guarantee unwavering faith. According to Luke, the people closest to Jesus believe they need more faith. "Increase our faith," they plead "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree

"Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'and it would obey you".

Luke recorded a lot of sayings of Jesus. Many of them were unique to his gospel – summing up the teachings of Jesus on discipleship. As the demands of following Jesus grew heavier, the Apostles pleaded for an increase of faith. Jesus told them that if they had faith as small as a mustard seed, they would accomplish great works. This saying meant that even those things that looked impossible would become possible if approached with faith. Jesus' disciples must follow his example, and work without expecting special treatment or payment. He said that the field-hand had duties in the master's kitchen and at the master's table. These tasks were lowly ones and might be performed without anyone saying 'Thank-you;' yet they are illustrations of loving service. When Jesus' disciples had done their best, they could not expect to be rewarded for something that was only their duty.



St. Francis of Assisi



Tuesday 4 October: Francis, son of a rich cloth merchant, led a thoughtless youth. His search for change led him to the ancient church at San Damiano. While praying there, he heard Christ speak to him from the crucifix, "Francis, repair my church." Francis assumed this meant he had to repair the crumbling building. Acting on impulse, he took fabric from his father's shop and sold it to get money to repair the church. His father dragged Francis before the bishop and in front of the whole town demanding that he return the money and renounce all rights as his heir. Francis not only gave back the money but stripped off the clothes his father had given him, and declared that from then on, his true Father was God in heaven. Francis took the Gospels as the rule of his life, and Jesus Christ as his example.

He dressed in simple clothes and begged for his sustenance. He visited hospitals, served the sick, cared for lepers, preached purity and peace, composed songs and hymns to God and nature, and regarded everyone as his brother and sister. He began to attract followers, and in 1209, with papal blessing, founded the Franciscans. In 1212 Clare of Assisi became his spiritual student, which led to the founding of the Poor Clares. While in meditation on Mount Alvernia in the Apennines in September 1224, Francis received the stigmata, which periodically bled during the remaining two years of his life

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI.



MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2022

Transitus – 7:30pm.

Prayer, Reading & Reflection on the Death of St. Francis, followed by Reception in the Small Hall.

TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2022

**Feast of St Francis – Masses:
12:15pm & 7:30pm.**

FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2022

CAFOD Family Fast Day.

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on 4th October, CAFOD has produced a number of resources to help us prepare spiritually and prayerfully. These include a daily Novena, reflections and prayers. They can be found on the **CAFOD website** www.cafod.org.uk

CAFOD Family Fast Day – World Food Crisis

Appeal: Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. As each day goes by, the situation worsens. As people of faith we must act. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table. Please give today or start a monthly gift to CAFOD. Use the envelope for our parish collection or go to cafod.org.uk/fastday.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

Next Sunday 9th October 2022, Traidcraft Stall will be open after all Sunday Masses.

Invitation: The Francian 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:

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS AND VALUABLES UNATTENDED DURING MASS.

U.E.L CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY:

Welcome to all students. There is a Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of East London – the Chaplain is Father Dan Kelly, and he is on Campus every Wednesday between 10am and 2pm. Please note that the Mass & Lunch here at Stratford ARE NOT taking place at the moment.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

7pm Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7pm. This weeks' topic of discussion is "**BAPTISM**"

Safeguarding.

The Stratford Friars are taking part in our safeguarding training this couple of weeks. We, as a Friary and as a Parish must keep this matter constantly before our eyes. We must all contribute to making a Culture of awareness and protection of the vulnerable.

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 & 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, 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: stfrancisassistratford.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Feast of St. Francis - 3rd October 2022 – Transitus – 7:30pm. 4th October 2022 – Feast of St. Francis – Masses: 12:15pm and 7:30pm. 16th & 17th October – *The Relics of St, Bernadette at Brentwood.* 18th & 19th October – *The Relics of St, Bernadette at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. Games & Dance Night 22nd October 2022 in the Large Hall. See posters at the back of the Church*