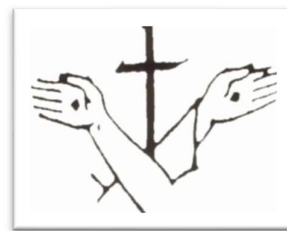




St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter "Laudato, Si"



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



SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2023

The Baptism of Jesus

Being baptised marks the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. In this act of humility, God reveals Jesus as God's beloved Son. We all fall short in living up to the promises made at baptism and renewed each year at Easter. Let us ask the Lord's mercy.

TODAYS READING

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7: Isaiah's description of the servant of the Lord sets the tone for the ministry of Jesus.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Acts 10:34-38: Peter gives a summary account of Jesus' ministry to new converts, beginning with the story of Jesus' being baptised by John the Baptist.

Matthew 3:13-17: Jesus persuades John the Baptist to baptise him along with all those who wish to live a decent human life under the word of God.

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of the Holy Family and especially the Epiphany, and have seen the Christmas Season in terms of the growing **manifestation** or **appearing** of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to everyone as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated on Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved. It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of the Holy Family and especially the Epiphany, and have seen the Christmas Season in terms of the growing **manifestation** or **appearing** of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to everyone as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated on Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.



Dates for your Diary: 18th January 2023 – NIGHT SHELTER AT ST. FRANCIS begins. 15th January 2023 – COMMUNION CANDIDATES – 2PM BOTH HALLS. 21st January 2023 – DEANERY FORMATION DAY – ALTAR SERVERS. 11th February 2023 – VALENTINES DAY DANCE & KARAOKE. More details next week.

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

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

8th JANUARY 2023

*The Traidcraft Stall will be open after
all Sunday Masses today 8th Jan.*

Everyone Welcome!



CLOSE OF CHRISTMAS

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a close. Tomorrow (Monday) we are back to **ORDINARY TIME** so-called because the weeks are numbered – or ‘ordered’. Ordinary Time is in fact the ‘ordered’ life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives, neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) nor in fasting (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

There are two periods of Ordinary Time. 5 weeks after Christmas (before Ash Wednesday) and 28 weeks after Easter.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland

29th May 2023, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights’ in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023:

The annual diocesan pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from **Monday 24 – Saturday 29 July 2023**. All are welcome, including those of us who need assistance. Details regarding booking and costs will follow soon.

HOLY COMMUNION 2023 - CANDIDATES MEETING:

**SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY 2023 AT 2PM IN BOTH
HALLS for all Parents, & Candidates who submitted
their application forms.**



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.

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

Website:

Email: stratford@friar.org

stfrancisassisistratford.com

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).