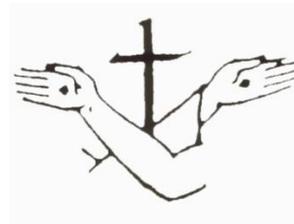




# St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter



Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London E15 1BJ  
Tel: 0208 534 1964

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS  
OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY  
9.30am-12.30pm**

### **OFFERTORY**

Last Week: £ 1606.44  
S/O: £ 160.00  
Total: £ 1765.44

### **Coffee shop at Trinity**

After 9.00am Mass on  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month.  
Proceeds to SVP  
*Please come for a chat!*

### **Novena of St Antony**

Tuesdays after 12.15pm Mass

### **Rosary in Church**

First Saturday of month  
After 10am Mass

### **Charismatic Prayer Group**

In Church Hall Sat 7-8.45pm

### **Newham General Hospital**

Mass 12.30pm each Wednesday.

### **Lost Property Box in Sacristy**

### **Drop in Bereavement Centre**

For all who have suffered  
bereavement  
187 Grange Rd, Plaistow E13  
Tel: 020-7511 6444  
M: 0798 325 7502

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Saturday evening 5 – 5.30 p.m. the  
Blessed Sacrament will be exposed  
for quiet prayer and adoration.

### **300 CLUB**

Next Draw will  
be on 28/07/2017

### **Newsletter Notices**

To be left in Friary by Tuesday

### **WOULD YOU LIKE A CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR?**

If so then take one of the leaflets at  
the back of church entitled 'The  
Universe' and it will tell you what  
to do.

## **SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2017 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY (cycle A)**

**First Reading:** (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19) God has the power to root out evil

**Second Reading:** (Romans 8: 26-27) the Spirit speaks for us

**Gospel:** (Matthew 13: 24-43). The good seed is made strong through adversity!

**Reflection:** The darnel and good seed grow until the harvest

**Response to the psalm** "O Lord, you are good and forgiving"

**Tuesday is the feast of St James, apostle, Wednesday the memorial of St Joackim and Anna, Saturday the memorial of St Martha**

### **BROTHER MICHAEL'S ORDINATION AS A DEACON**

Brother Michael O'Grady will be ordained deacon at a 12 noon Mass next Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Bishop Alan will come to officiate. It is the Feast Day of St Martha who waited on Jesus providing food for Him when He visited. The office of deacon was instituted by the Apostles so that they could feed the poor while the Apostles carried out their preaching.

### **NO 10 O'CLOCK MASS ON 29<sup>th</sup> JULY**

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, there will be no 10 a.m. Mass because of the Ordination of Brother Michael to the Office of Deacon at a 12 noon Mass. Confessions will be heard as usual from 10.30 a.m.

### **DIOCESAN COLLECTION**

This Sunday's Diocesan Collection will be for 'Peter's Pence' This collection provides the Pope with money for the charities he supports.

### **FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Forms are available for collection in the Church Porch. Children to be prepared must be baptised Catholics, living in the Parish of St Francis, who will be in Year 3 or above by this September 2017. Forms must be returned with a COPY of the child's Baptismal Certificate and left at the Parish Office or given to Sister. Bernie, marked "First Communion Preparation" by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

### **PARISH ROAD SHOW**

You are all welcome to the Parish Road Show which will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017, this will be after the 10.15 and 12.00 Noon Mass. At the show various groups in the parish display their particular involvement in the life of the parish. They will have table with their display and you will be able to talk to them and find out in more detail what they do. It is also an opportunity for you to sign on and support at least one of the existing groups in the Parish. Bring and share food. For more information, please contact Francesca on 079316 52056 or Fatima on 077223 91328

### **THOSE WISHING TO MARRY**

Those wishing to prepare for marriage are reminded that the bishops have asked that they give 6 months notice of their intention. This time is needed for the obtaining of documents and processing them if the wedding is to be held abroad. More importantly, time is needed for the couple to think and pray about the sacrament they will celebrate together.

### **TRIP TO AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE ON SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017.**

Coach leaves St Francis of Assisi Church at 9.15am – Cost: £12.00 for adults and children £5.00. For further information, please contact Dorothy Hawkins on 020 8534 0458.

### **7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GK CHESTERTON PILGRIMAGE - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.**

For details see; [www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk](http://www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk) Send us any prayer requests; [CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk) or text to 0779520511.

Hearty congratulations to **Sean and Angela Geraghty** on the occasion of their **GOLDEN WEDDING** anniversary. Sean and Angela have been parishioners here for many years, and have been very active in zeal and devotion to the parish. Congratulations Angela and Sean, and many thanks for all you have done

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY TO SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017

Monday	12.15pm	Elizabeth Adewojo – R.I.P.	Saturday	10.00am	Prudence Roderick – R.I.P.
Tuesday	12.15pm	Bernadette & Caren - Intentions	Saturday	6pm	Derek Alan Farr – Sick
Wednesday	12.15pm	Antonio, Celeste & Francesco – R.I.P.	Sunday (Trinity)	9.00am	Andy Levis & Family
Thursday	12.15pm	Royce Meyn - Thanksgiving		10.15am	<b>PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
Friday	12.15pm	Liam Connelly		12.00 Noon	Anita Hidago – R.I.P.

**Please pray for our sick: Derek Alan Farr and Graziano Palagi.**

**Please also pray for our deceased: Elizabeth Ogunlana; Michael Adebayo Kolade,** and for everyone whose Anniversary occurs around this time. *May their souls rest in God's love and peace.*

### JOURNEY OF FAITH

The people who were on the Journey of Faith this year are invited to come together again this Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 a.m. We need to evaluate the way the meetings we conducted to approve what went well and to make improvements. This is how we make the process more helpful for people. Bring some food and drink to share to celebrate our time together over the year. Also if you know someone who has shown interest in the Catholic Church bring them along.

### BEACH TRIP

The Ghana Community is organising a beach trip to Clacton on Sea on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Interested parishioners wishing to join the trip should text 'Beach' followed by name and telephone number to 07956 431673. Fare: Adult: £20.00, under 18 years, £15.00. Limited spaces and is strictly first come, first served. Deadline for payment 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017.

### **EXTRACT FROM AMORIS LAETITIA, THE POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS**

Some couples are unable to have children. We know that this can be a cause of real suffering for them. At the same time, we know that "marriage was not instituted solely for the procreation of children... Even in cases where, despite the intense desire of the spouses, there are no children, marriage still retains its character of being a whole manner and communion of life, and preserves its value and indissolubility". So too, "motherhood is not a solely biological reality, but is expressed in diverse ways".

Adoption is a very generous way to become parents. I encourage those who cannot have children to expand their marital love to embrace those who lack a proper family situation. They will never regret having been generous. Adopting a child is an act of love, offering the gift of a family to someone who has none. It is important to insist that legislation help facilitate the adoption process, above all in the case of unwanted children, in order to prevent their abortion or abandonment. Those who accept the challenge of adopting and accepting someone unconditionally and gratuitously become channels of God's love. For he says, "Even if your mother forgets you, I will not forget you" (Is 49:15).

"The choice of adoption and foster care expresses a particular kind of fruitfulness in the marriage experience, and not only in cases of infertility. In the light of those situations where a child is desired at any cost, as a right for one's self-fulfilment, adoption and foster care, correctly understood, manifest an important aspect of parenting and the raising of children. They make people aware that children, whether natural, adoptive or taken in foster care, are persons in their own right who need to be accepted, loved and cared for, and not just brought into this world. The best interests of the child should always underlie

any decision in adoption and foster care". On the other hand, "the trafficking of children between countries and continents needs to be prevented by appropriate legislative action and state control".

We also do well to remember that procreation and adoption are not the only ways of experiencing the fruitfulness of love. Even large families are called to make their mark on society, finding other expressions of fruitfulness that in some way prolong the love that sustains them. Christian families should never forget that "faith does not remove us from the world, but draws us more deeply into it... Each of us, in fact, has a special role in preparing for the coming of God's kingdom in our world". Families should not see themselves as a refuge from society, but instead go forth from their homes in a spirit of solidarity with others. In this way, they become a hub for integrating persons into society and a point of contact between the public and private spheres. Married couples should have a clear awareness of their social obligations. With this, their affection does not diminish but is flooded with new light. As the poet says: "Your hands are my caress, the harmony that fills my days. I love you because your hands Work for justice. If I love you, it is because you are my love, my companion and my all, and on the street, side by side, we are much more than just two".

#### **WE CELEBRATE MASS**

1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Sunday: Sat 6pm; Sun 10.15am (with Children's Liturgy);  
12.00 Noon and 6pm (Polish)  
(Also Holy Trinity CofE, Holloway Rd, E11: Sun 9am)  
Weekdays: Mon to Fri 12.15pm. Sat. 10am  
Holydays of Obligation: 8am; 12.15pm and 8pm.

#### **WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Sat 10.30am to 11am and 5pm to 5.30pm.  
**Friars in residence:** Michael Copps (Guardian & Parish Priest)  
Francis Conway OFM, Fr Tony Baya OFM, Jorge Ortiz OFM, Bro Michael O'Grady OFM, **Parish Sister:** Sister Bernie

#### **Postal Address:**

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Tel: 020 8534 1964 Email: [Stratford@friar.org](mailto:Stratford@friar.org)