



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: £1,644.99
S/O: £ 160.00
Total: £1,804.99

Coffee shop at Trinity

After 9.00am Mass on
1st 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

23/02/2018

No. 247 Mrs J. Christian

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.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AS EBOOKS

Pick up a leaflet for more
information from the table at the
back of church

SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2018 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Cycle B)

First Reading: (Genesis 22 : 1-2, 15-18) Abraham our father in faith.

Second Reading: (Romans 8 : 31-34) God did not spare his own son.

Gospel: (Mark 9 : 2-10) This is my son, the beloved.

Reflection: And then there was no one but Jesus.

Response to the psalm: " I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Thursday is the feast day of St David patron of Wales.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY : FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

Many poor people around the world benefited from your fasting on Friday. If you forgot, then declare your own fast day and give your donation to the collection today. At Mass this weekend we will have someone from CAFOD to speak to us about how the money you donate is spent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays 7.30 p.m., led by Parish groups, with our young people preparing for Confirmation taking a turn this Friday. The friars have decided to pray the Stations *at 11.30am on Wednesdays* in Lent, and you are invited to join us.

150 YEARS OF ST FRANCIS, STRATFORD ON 12th MAY

See the back of the newsletter for the account of how this church was founded by Father James McQuoin. He certainly did a lot of work in this area and, despite the poverty of the people of East London at that time, managed to set up four parishes. He died at age 45 and is buried in St Patricks Leytonstone. At the recent Parish Council meeting it was suggested that we find his grave and honour it as part of our 150th celebration. We have other plans for the celebration but at the moment we are unclear as to when Bishop Alan can join us.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On *Friday (2nd March) at 4 p.m.* we are the hosts for the Women's World Day of Prayer. The Day has a very Franciscan theme: 'All God's Creation is Very Good.' The ladies from the Baptist Church have been holding rehearsals so please come to pray with people that will come from several churches. While it is called the Women's World Day of Prayer men are by no means unwelcome. We are the hosts, so it is down to us to come and make our visitors welcome.

SAD NEWS

Liam Dwyer died on Tuesday 20th February, our condolences and prayers go out to the family.
May he rest in peace

OFFERTORY DONATIONS AND GIFT AID

As becoming a cashless society becomes closer to reality, would you prefer to pay your offertory donation by standing order? You choose how to pay – weekly, monthly etc.
Do you pay income tax? If so, then you can increase the value of your donations to the Church by 25% without any extra cost to yourself by signing a Gift Aid declaration.
Contact Chris – 07956431673 for details of either, or both, of the above.

GREEN PASTURES – 4th March and 18th March 2018

THE SENIORS' BUBBLE CLUB

Next session on *Friday 9th March* in the Small Hall @ 10.00am. More information from Claire Thorn on 07960 856307 or the Parish Office on 020 8534 1964. All are Welcome.

GCSE English tutor wanted

To start as soon as possible. Please contact Bernadette on [07988538907](tel:07988538907).

Highly skilled lady hairdresser - wide variety of styles

- will come to your home. Please ring Adama: 0745 028 8963 – 1784 591 8230

Very experienced and skilled cleaner

DBS cleared, etc., with very good references. Please ring Howa: 07985 644679

MASSES FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY ENDING SUNDAY 4TH MARCH 2018

Monday	12.15 pm	Colin Corey - RIP	Saturday	10.00am	Prudence Roderick - RIP
Tuesday	12.15pm	Paddy McNulty - RIP		6.00pm	Maria Ilena Gouvcia
Wednesday	12.15pm	Rolinda Dingle - THANKSGIVING	Sunday (Trinity)	9.00am	DONOR
Thursday	12.15pm	Bridget Conlon - RIP		10.15am	People of the Parish
Friday	12.15pm	Sheila West – RIP from SVP		12.00 Noon	John McNulty - RIP

Please pray for our sick, our recently deceased, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time: John McNulty.
May their souls rest in God's love & peace.

150 YEARS OF ST FRANCIS, STRATFORD

An extract from our archives: Fr James McQuoin (pronounced Mc Ewan) born in the Parish of Warwick St, London, Curate at St. Mary's Moorfields 1849-1856, was appointed to the Mission at Stratford in 1856. He arrived at the priest's house in the High St in July 1856, age 31. While in Stratford he was, at 32, to start a church at Barking; at 34, one at Canning Town; at 40, to found the mission at Bow and, at 43, to open the present church at Stratford. At 45, he was laid to rest in St Patrick's Cemetery, Leytonstone, having achieved much in a short life. On his 43rd birthday, Fr McQuoin saw the opening of the present Church. Mass was celebrated by Dr. Morris OSB, Bishop of Trouy, with a sermon by Archbishop Manning. Kelly's Directory for 1874 describes the Church as "a rectangular building in the Italian style, 96' by 35, holding 400 persons, with a small tower over the porch...the cost £6,000. So, on 12th May 2018 the Church is 150 years old.

TABLE TOP SALE

St Francis Church *Saturday 3rd March 2018* @ 11.00 – 2pm
 Bring your family and friends, plenty of bargains to be found

THE BCCS SOCIETY ANNUAL CHARITY BALL

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society ball is at **The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge, Sat 10th March**. £55 per person. Drinks reception, three course dinner and entertainment. Contact Julie ASAP to avoid disappointment : 01268 784544 / 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

CATHOLIC PURPOSE, MISSION AND LEADERSHIP

Led by Jonathan Doyle, author, at St Bon's School, E7 9QD
Thurs 1 Mar 10.00-15.00 (lunch included) £100 * £75 early bird
<http://www.stbons.org/register-for-training>

SPIRITUALITY SEMINARS: AT CATHEDRAL HOUSE INGRAVE ROAD BRENTWOOD CM1 5 8AT

Sat Mar 24th 10.30am-12.00pm; **Lent.** by Fr Martin Boland. ,
 Tel 01277 265285 email: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org

SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBITION, Chelmsford

Our Lady Immaculate, *Mon 5th - Sat 10th Mar*. See poster.

HOUSING ACTION

2012 promises for 50% affordable houses on the Olympic Park have not been kept and the % has been reduced to 31%. See poster in church. Pls contact Fr Michael, if you are up for action on London Legacy Corporation, in charge of Park planning.

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2018

What are we to do?

Perhaps we see, deep within ourselves and all about us, the signs I have just described. But the Church, our Mother and Teacher,

along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

By devoting more time to *prayer*, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception,[5] and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well.

Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.[6]

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving must endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

I would also like my invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!

WE CELEBRATE MASS

1st Mass of Sunday: Sat 6pm; Sun 10.15am (with Children's Liturgy); 12.00 Noon

(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, Fr Brian McGrath OFM,

Bro Michael O'Grady OFM, **Parish Sister:** Sister Bernie

Postal Address: The Friary, 160 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1NS

Tel: 020 8534 1964 **Email:** Stratford@friar.org