



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

**Easter Offertory is for the benefit
of the Friars – grateful thanks to
all Parishioners.**

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

The Next draw will be on
Friday 27/04/2018

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 8th APRIL 2018 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35: Evangelism and daily life in the early church. For a moment the Church is perfect on earth as it is in heaven. Yet it is in the imperfections of the Church that the Lord manifests his mercy and his power.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6: The importance of faith and love in the community. Victory for Christians is always a victory over ourselves before we may presume to win others by faith.

Gospel: John 20:19-31: Peter speaks to the apostles and to the Church, but Thomas speaks for the apostles, because he speaks from his own struggle to believe.

Response to Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, *Surrexit Christus alleluia*. For his love has no end, *Cantate Domino alleluia*.

EASTER JOY

Thanks to all who were involved in our Lenten and Easter efforts. The Stations of the Cross were prayed in various ways and all of them devotional. The Wednesday stations well attended and that will be repeated. The sacred art group did a very good job communicating the theme of each liturgy visually. The end of Lent was exciting with Michael O'Grady's ordination which should give us all a lift. The Holy Week ceremonies were well celebrated. At the Easter Vigil we welcomed Emily and Marvellous into the Church together with Marcellus's children Louis and Christian. Jennifer and Kevin Lon Ho Kee were confirmed. Well done everyone. Now it's our 150th in May!!

FUNERAL MASS

Funeral Mass for Josephine Blaize on Monday 9th April 2018 @ 12.15pm. Our condolences and prayers to her family. May she Rest in Peace

FUNERAL MASS

Funeral Mass for Oscar Palado on Wednesday 11th April 2018 @ 12.15pm. Our condolences and prayers to his family. May he Rest in Peace

THE SENIOR'S BUBBLEY CLUB

Next Session will be on Friday 20th April 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.

PRE-DECIMAL COINS

We have received a number of pre-decimal coins in our collections. These cannot be exchanged at the bank. A high proportion are half-pennies, dating back from 1930s. We haven't investigated all the coins, but if someone would like to have them please contact Marian Thorn on 07715 420629 or Sarah McKiernan on 07778 868827 and we will arrange for you to pick them up.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH 150th ANNIVERSARY – PARISH MEMORIES

How long have you been in the parish? Do you have any short story or memory about your time in the parish? How did you become (or are becoming) involved in parish life? Do you have any pictures of parish events? We are trying to put together some anecdotes about parish life from 1980 to the present. Items can be submitted via the Parish Office or email stratford@friar.org or marian.thorn@ntlworld.com. Please clearly label "Parish Memories".

150 YEARS OF ST FRANCIS STRATFORD

The actual date when our church is 150 years old is Saturday 12th May but Bishop Alan is not free that weekend. However, he will come on Saturday 5th May to celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. That is now a firm date and we will build our celebration around that Mass and that weekend. So now our committee can get on with their work.

WORKS OF MERCY

The Helpers of God's Precious Infants

The next Rosary Procession Vigil of The Helpers of God's Precious Infants, led by Father Jacob Hausman CFR, will be held on Saturday 21st April 2018, at St. Patrick's Church, 21a Soho Square, London W1D 4NR. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will begin at 9am after which we will begin our Rosary Procession, following an Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to Marie Stopes Abortion Centre, Whitfield Street, W1T 5BE, where we shall pray 15 decades of the Rosary and sing hymns. At approximately 11.30am we return to the Church for Benediction, followed by refreshments. For full details see poster on church notice board. For further details tel. 01727 763832 or e-mail marg@helpersuk.org

A mother who had a change of heart and kept her baby at one of our vigils contacted the counsellor to say that she is 'unable to express her gratitude.' Her baby was born in January '18.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 9th APRIL ENDING SUNDAY 15th APRIL 2018

Monday	12.15pm	Funeral mass for Josephine Blaize	Saturday	10.00am	Evonne Cabey - Birthday
Tuesday	12.15pm	Liam Dwyer - RIP		6.00pm	Thanks Giving to St Anthony
Wednesday	12.15pm	Funeral Mass for Oscar Palado	Sunday (Trinity)	9.00am	Jose Neves
Thursday	12.15pm	Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien- RIP		10.15am	People of the Parish
Friday	12.15pm	Josephine Mortimer - Sick		12.00 Noon	Father Francis - Sick

Please pray for our sick: Father Francis and Josephine Mortimer

Please pray for our Deceased - Recently dead: Eileen Fole, Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien. **Anniversaries:** . *May their souls rest in God's love & peace.*

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION

Sunday 8th April 1:30pm at Our Lady of Compassion Church, Green Street, Upton Park, E13 9AX. Come and experience God's merciful love with Eucharistic adoration, Confessions, an inspiring talk, and veneration of the Divine Mercy image. Jesus said to St. Faustina, "Souls that make an appeal to my mercy delight Me, to such souls I grant even more graces than they ask.

"Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust (based in Newham) is looking to appoint additional directors to the Trust Board. Please see <http://www.ourladyofgrace.org.uk/careers-opportunities/>. The closing date for applications: noon 16 April.

ST. JOHN'S RC SPECIAL SCHOOL, WOODFORD BRIDGE

St. John's is recruiting full time Class Assistants to work with students aged 5-25 with a wide range of special needs. Hours 9.00am to 3.30pm, term time only, experience preferred. Immediate and September starts available. For an application pack please contact the school office on 020 8504 1818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk, closing date 16th April 2018. Successful applications will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. www.stjohnsrcschool.co.uk.

POPE FRANCIS EASTER HOMILY

We began this celebration outside, plunged in the darkness of the night and the cold. We felt an oppressive silence at the death of the Lord, a silence with which each of us can identify, a silence that penetrates to the depths of the heart of every disciple, who stands wordless before the cross. These are the hours when the disciple stands speechless in pain at the death of Jesus. What words can be spoken at such a moment? The disciple keeps silent in the awareness of his or her own reactions during those crucial hours in the Lord's life. Before the injustice that condemned the Master, his disciples were silent. Before the calumnies and the false testimony that the Master endured, his disciples said nothing. During the trying, painful hours of the Passion, his disciples dramatically experienced their inability to put their lives on the line to speak out on behalf of the Master. What is more, not only did they not acknowledge him: they hid, they escaped, they kept silent (cf. *Jn* 18:25-27).

It is the silent night of the disciples who remained numb, paralyzed and uncertain of what to do amid so many painful and disheartening situations. It is also that of today's disciples, speechless in the face of situations we cannot control, that make us feel and, even worse, believe that nothing can be done to reverse all the injustices that our brothers and sisters are experiencing in their flesh. It is the silent night of those disciples who are disoriented because they are plunged in a crushing routine that robs memory, silences hope and leads to thinking that "this is the way things have always been done". Those disciples who, overwhelmed, have nothing to say and end up considering "normal" and unexceptional the words of Caiaphas: "Can you not see that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed?" (*Jn* 11:50). Amid our silence, our overpowering silence, the stones begin to cry out (cf. *Lk* 19:40) [1] and to clear the way for the greatest message that history has ever heard: "He is not here, for he has been raised" (*Mt* 28:6). The stone before the tomb cried out and

proclaimed the opening of a new way for all. Creation itself was the first to echo the triumph of life over all that had attempted to silence and stifle the joy of the Gospel. The stone before the tomb was the first to leap up and in its own way intone a song of praise and wonder, of joy and hope, in which all of us are invited to join. Yesterday, we joined the women in contemplating "the one who was pierced" (cf. *Jn* 19:36; cf. *Zech* 12:10). Today, with them, we are invited to contemplate the empty tomb and to hear the words of the angel: "Do not be afraid... for he has been raised" (*Mt* 28:5-6). Those words should affect our deepest convictions and certainties, the ways we judge and deal with the events of our daily lives, especially the ways we relate to others. The empty tomb should challenge us and rally our spirits. It should make us think, but above all it should encourage us to trust and believe that God "happens" in every situation and every person, and that his light can shine in the least expected and most hidden corners of our lives. He rose from the dead, from that place where nobody waits for anything, and now he waits for us – as he did the women – to enable us to share in his saving work. On this basis and with this strength, we Christians place our lives and our energy, our intelligence, our affections and our will, at the service of discovering, and above all creating, paths of dignity. He is not here... he is risen! This is the message that sustains our hope and turns it into concrete gestures of charity. How greatly we need to let our frailty be anointed by this experience! How greatly we need to let our faith be revived! How greatly we need our myopic horizons to be challenged and renewed by this message! Christ is risen, and with him he makes our hope and creativity rise, so that we can face our present problems in the knowledge that we are not alone. To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our "conventions", those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope. The stone before the tomb shared in this, the women of the Gospel shared in this, and now the invitation is addressed once more to you and to me. An invitation to break out of our routines and to renew our lives, our decisions and our existence. An invitation that must be directed to where we stand, what we are doing and what we are, with the "power ratio" that is ours. Do we want to share in this message of life or do we prefer simply to continue standing speechless before events as they happen? He is not here... he is raised! And he awaits you in Galilee. He invites you to go back to the time and place of your first love and he says to you: Do not be afraid, follow me.

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

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