



St Francis of Assisi Church

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Newsletter 16th June 2024

Fr Phillip writes...

In this week's Gospel, Jesus explains that the kingdom of God is like the seed that is sown on the land that sprouts, grows and matures until it is ready for the harvest. We can understand this parable at two different levels.

Firstly, it describes how God's kingdom is growing and coming to fruition in our world. The seed that is sown is the Good News of Jesus Christ, proclaimed in every generation, gathering more and more people into the Church until that great harvest time when Christ will come again.

But the parable also describes how God's kingdom grows and comes to fruition in each one of us. We receive the Good News in our lives: like a little seed that finds a dark, warm place to grow, God's word begins to grow in our lives, to sprout and to take root, and eventually to bear fruit – if we are open to him.

Of course, the seed that is sown is not alone, but grows up in the field with other seeds. The growing and coming to fruition of the kingdom of God in each of our lives cannot be separated from the growing and coming to fruition of the kingdom of God in his Church. We grow and mature in our faith within the Church and we are fed and watered by the Holy Spirit's graces which flow through the Church and her sacraments into our lives.

God causes the seed to grow, not us, but we can help it grow – both at the personal level and in the world – by being open to God's kingdom and God's will in our lives, and by living our lives as those who are supported and nourished by the Church.

Especially, today, we are celebrating the Day for Life. So often in contemporary society the fundamental importance of life is being compromised: terminating a human life, from the unborn to the seriously ill, is regarded as being a legitimate freedom and campaigners wish to extend the law to enable such choices further and further. Such a view is directly in contrast to us as being open to God's kingdom – life is God's gift to us and through that gift we can grow and the seed of his kingdom can grow and prosper in our lives and in the world.

To find out more about the Day for Life and read a reflection for 2024 on Compassion and Hope at the End of Life, see: www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life-scripture-reflection/

There will be a collection for the Day for Life at the end of all Sunday Masses today.

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

- ✠ Saturday 15th June, 5.30 pm: ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (People of the Parish)
- ✠ Sunday 16th June: ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8.30: (John Casey R.I.P.)
10 am: (Eileen Berkeley R.I.P.)
- ✠ Monday 17th June: NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS
- ✠ Tuesday 18th June, 9 am: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time (Angelica - welfare)
- ✠ Wednesday 19th June, 9 am: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time (Masih family - welfare)
- ✠ Thursday 20th June, 9 am: Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time (McGinty family, Deceased Members R.I.P.)
- ✠ Friday 21st June, 9 am: St Aloysius Gonzaga
- ✠ Saturday 22nd June, 9 am: SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE, MARTYRS, FEAST
- ✠ Saturday 22nd June, 5.30 pm: TWELTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (People of the Parish)
- ✠ Sunday 23rd June: TWELTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8.30: (Sheila Hayes R.I.P.)
10 am: (Berkeley family Deceased Members R.I.P.)


*Weekend of 15-16
June: 2nd
Collection for
"Day for Life"*


PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WEEK, DUE TO THE ROYAL ASCOT WEEK, ALL MASSES FROM 18TH TO 22ND JUNE WILL BE AT 9AM. NORMAL MASS TIMES WILL RESUME FROM THE VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY, 22ND JUNE.

Weekly Events

- 📖 **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction:** This Friday, after 9 am Mass.
- 📖 **Confession:** After 9 am Mass this Saturday, or by appointment.

 **Little Franciscan Toddler Group:** Every Tuesday, term-time only, from 11 am to 12.45 pm. All welcome! Please, note **there will NOT be** toddler sessions on **18th June**.

 **SVP Table Sales:** in the Narthex, from Wed to Sun. Thanks for your support. All donations gratefully received.

 **Children's Liturgy:** Every Sunday, during the 10 am Mass (term-time only). We accept children from 3yo to Year 3. Enrolment forms available in the Narthex. For further inquiries, email Sue Roche: sue.roche1@btinternet.com

We pray for the sick and housebound of our community: Maria Williams, Brian Lynch, Pat Sassi, Simon Saint, Ernesto and Napoleon Mannois, Jane Thomas, Daniel Offer, Marie Hall, Nina Mullins, Georgia MacKinley, Eileen Hoare, Sr Josephine Collier, Pauline Painter, Malgorzata Cordoba & Anne Weatherall.

News This Week

Government Consultation on Lifting Cap for Catholic Children

The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap, that for the last 14 years, has limited the number of Catholic children that can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please open the link and respond to the consultation. Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/>

General Election (from Bishops' Conference)

The Prime Minister has called a General Election for 4th July 2024. The Bishops' Conference have created a webpage about the issues important to Catholics. For more info, access link <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/>

National Day of Prayer & Fasting for Life

On Saturday 22nd June, the Eve of the Vigil of the Feast of St John the Baptist, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. This is the last monthly day of prayer and fasting for life before the General Election. An election which could well result in an even more pro-abortion government than we have currently had. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. "And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least...God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10) Please Invite others to join the day on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1037436687798327/>

Parish Outreach Group

We are hoping to form a small group of people between the communities of Ascot and Windsor to reach out to every household in our parishes. We will focus on three or four roads every week and will deliver a card to every home. If you'd like to be a part of this exciting Mission in the life of our parishes then please either come to the information evening on the **25th June at St Edward's Parish Centre, Windsor**. (The follow-up meeting will be in Ascot) It would be a short meeting beginning at **7 pm**. (There is the option coming to mass at 6:30 pm before). If you cannot make this date, but would like to be a part of the group, please contact either parish office or just turn up at the meeting.

The New Lectionary Books

From Advent 2024, the new Lectionary (the book we take the readings from at all Masses) is being introduced in every Catholic parish in England and Wales. We will need to purchase the new copies in time for this in St Francis. The existing books will no longer be able to be used. The new Lectionary books come in several volumes: Vol.1 Sundays, Solemnities, Feasts of the Lord; Vol.2 Weekdays – Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, Proper of Saints (I); Vol.3 Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Proper of Saints (II); Vol.4 Ritual Masses, Various, Votive, Masses for the dead; the Book of the Gospels also will need replacing.

Please would you consider making a donation towards these? The cost of the Ambo edition (the books the readers read from at Masses) is £695 for all 4 volumes and the cost of the Book of the Gospels (which the priest proclaims the Gospel from at Sunday Masses) is £275.

There's a button named "Lectionary Books" at the DONA Terminal in the back of the church for those donating by card. You can also donate by cash using the designated envelopes available at the Church porch.

There will also be People's editions coming out, so if you usually like to have your personal Daily or Sunday Missal, you can order the new version and, if you know someone who might appreciate one, buy one for them too as a gift. Details of these can be found at: www.newlectionary.org/#peoplesmissals

Bracknell Foodbank

The Foodbank is in need of toilet rolls. If you can help, kindly bring them to our collection point in the Church porch. Many thanks.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of more offertory counters. If you can help, kindly contact the Parish Office.

Accommodation Plea

Self-catering accommodation needed for a little family for approx. one month (approx. July), Ascot area (2 adults, 1 child, 1 little dog). Budget: £800. Contact Parish Office via email if you can help. Many thanks.

ST FRANCIS ASCOT FATIMA DEVOTIONS

KSC HOME PRAYER GROUP

30 Minutes of praying the Rosary

As requested by Our Lady

ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW

Monday - Friday at 1.30pm

MON 17th June - FRI 21st June 2024

ZOOM ID : 886 4388 8227

PASSWORD : rosary



Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - Province 41 WESTMINSTER

London North - Hanwell - Edmonton - Palmers Green - Sudbury - Harrow - St Albans - Uxbridge -
Willowden Green - Mill Hill High Wycombe - Wood Green - Chiswick - Cockfosters - Hemel Hempstead -
Letchworth - Enfield - Stevenage - Hoxton Square - Yeading - Whittan Wembley - Thames Valley

ZOOM DETAILS ALSO AVAILABLE ON - www.stfrancisascot.co.uk/NEWSLETTER

