

# St Francis of Assisi Church

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SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8 & 10.30am.

(Confessions are available after each Sunday Mass)

WEEKDAYS: Monday no Mass, Tuesday to Friday 7am, Saturday 8am

Thursday 6-7pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



## NEWSLETTER

19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

To prepare for Sunday Mass it is a good idea to read and give thought to the readings in your missal or Bible. Here are some questions to ponder.

**First Reading** [[Exodus 17:3-7](#)] In the desert, filled with thirsty panic, the Israelites grumbled that God was not with them. Can you relate to this situation in some way?

**Second Reading** [[Romans 5:1-2, 5-8](#)] St Paul says, "The Holy Spirit has been given to us." What do these words mean to you? How often do you call on this Spirit?

**Gospel** [[John 4:5-42](#)] "If you only knew what God is offering" What is God offering you? Will you accept it?

## THE NEED TO FORGIVE

It is not easy to ask for forgiveness or even to admit that we are in the wrong and our first reaction is not always our real one. Sometimes in a flash of anger it is possible to say something or do something which we regret afterwards. But far more important than that is our ongoing willingness to forgive or to ask forgiveness.

This can be difficult even though we know it is important. It is an essential part of Christ's teaching. In fact, it is true to say that the very reason why God became human was to bring forgiveness to the world. Forgiveness in two ways: we need to be forgiven and we need to forgive other people.

It is not easy but the first step must be a genuine wanting to forgive. Sometimes when a person comes asking for help and I ask if they really want to forgive, the answer can be "Sometimes I do, but I'm afraid sometimes I don't." More often the answer is, "Yes, I do want to forgive, I really do. But I just can't let go of it. It seems to have a hold on me." It takes time to get there – human beings need time to grow. The first essential step is still to *want* to forgive, but after that it may take some time to feel it and to know that I have let go of it.

One thing you will find helpful is to read accounts of people who after being viciously hurt have come to real forgiveness. The book Bishop Jason has given us, *Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody* is just that - stories of the extraordinary generosity of people who have been hurt. The need to forgive and let go of hurt is absolutely essential. Jesus' whole mission was to forgive.



**Stations of the Cross - Friday at 6 pm - during Lent**

## ASKING FOR GOD'S MERCY

The Holy Father has called on us to encounter the merciful love of the heart of our Lord through opening our churches for twenty-four hours Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Our church will remain open with the Blessed Sacrament exposed this Friday from the 7am Mass until 10pm and on Saturday from 6am until the evening Mass.

**YOU ARE ASKED TO SIGN ON THE LIST AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH FOR PERIODS OF ADORATION ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**

**CONFESSIONS** will be available

on Friday after the Stations of the Cross and on Saturday after the 5pm Mass

### OUR DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

on Saturday, March 25, the feast of the Annunciation visiting all the Catholic churches in Barbados will form part of this devotion asking for God's mercy.

Those wishing to avail themselves of the pilgrimage bus (\$20) are asked to sign the lists at the back of the church, either taking the bus from the cathedral at the beginning of the pilgrimage or from St Francis after our service at 10.45.

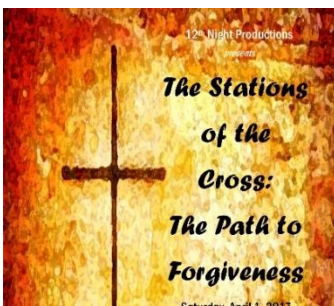
9:15 prayer at **St. Patrick's Cathedral** 9:45 depart  
10:15 arrive at **Our Lady Queen of the Universe** 10:45 depart  
11:15 arrive at **St. Francis of Assisi** 11:45 depart  
12:15 arrive at **Our Lady of Sorrows** 12:45 depart  
1:15 arrive at **Our Lady of the Rosary** [lunch stop] 2:45 depart  
3:15 arrive at **Sacred Heart** 3:45 depart  
4:15 arrive at **St Dominic's** 4:45 depart  
5:15 arrive at **St. Patrick's Cathedral** **6pm Mass in the Cathedral**

**COLLECTION** last week's collection came to \$4,077.96. – for which many thanks

## PARISH RETREAT

**Five evenings at 6 pm during the week just before Palm Sunday, Monday to Friday, April 3 – 7**  
We will have a Mass, but the first part (the Liturgy of the Word) will take place in the hall, allowing for some discussion and then we will move into the church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

For those who cannot come and would like to follow it via our camera we will see if we can do something special. No promises, but please let Fr Michael know what would be the best time of day.



SATURDAY APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> – TWELFTH NIGHT PRODUCTIONS

presents

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

THE PATH TO FORGIVENESS

Do not miss this very moving Lenten Production  
in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 7:30 pm on April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Please would you pray for these people who are ill :**

Alex Geoghegan, Mervin Mahon, Emilio Cabrera Leon, Chandra Hosein, Carolina Restrepo, Bonita Morgan, Marie Edmund, Althea Marshall, Carlyle Glean, Taylor Pluna, Peter-Xavier Iweze, Lourdes Rouco, John Griffith, Teresa Hodge, Aurelija Vasilevskiene, Ivor Joseph, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Michael Faul, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Sharon Cross, Marie Conibert, Jane Fontelle, Garfield Husband, Anna Teelan and Joyce Blennman

All services held in St Francis Church may be viewed on the Internet: <http://iwcpinc.com/portfolio-view/church-st-francis/>

A shortened form of Fr Michael's homily can be found in the Advocate on Sunday

and after the Sunday on: *Michael A J BarrowYoutube*