



This parish is served by the Spiritans

StFrancisDeSalesHartley

sfdhartley sfdhartley

<https://tinyurl.com/vc7w838m>

St. Francis de Sales Live Stream: www.churchservices.tvhartley

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Parish Mass Book Year A Vol 1, Page 82

REFLECTION ON ADVENT YEAR 'A'

1. Concept of Advent

a) "Advent" means "coming". ("ad" - towards + "venire" - to come). b) Any advent or coming is accompanied by waiting, expectation, anticipation, joy and some sacrifices related to preparations for the guest who will be arriving. c) Strictly speaking, Advent is the coming of Christ.

2. The Three Comings of Christ

a) The first coming was Christmas – the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the Incarnation. This is the past event. b) The second is the coming of Jesus in the here and now, especially in the sacraments and the "signs of the times". This is the present and ongoing event. c) The third coming is the Second Coming of Christ or "Parousia" as Judge of the living and the dead. This is the future event which only the Heavenly Father knows. This could take place at any time.

3. The Season of Advent

a) The first Season in the liturgical calendar is Advent. We are now in cycle A of the Sunday readings. This season has four Sundays before Christmas. The liturgical colour is light violet, (as differentiated from the dark violet of Lent), to signify penance mixed with joyful expectation. b) The Season of Advent is a time for preparation for the coming of Christ. Since Christ has 3 comings, we should have also 3 manners of preparation. c) For the first coming, our preparation is for the season of Christmas. This is what we are good at. Christmas is in the air. It is the season of cheer, shopping, parties, and gifts. This is what most of us are preparing for every year – mere externals. So, after Christmas, our spirits and our pockets are empty! The real preparation for Christmas should be spiritual – concerning our soul and our relationship with God. That is precisely the significance of the liturgical colour of violet: we are encouraged to do some acts of penance and sacrifices to make Christmas truly meaningful and grace filled. We are reminded to go to Confession and reconcile with God, and accompany these with acts of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. d) For the second coming – in the sacraments and the present signs of the times – our preparation is in our constant awareness of the presence of Christ in our daily lives:

(continued overleaf)

The church is open

Tues-Fri

08.45am-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-6.30pm

Sun 7.45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASSES

Sat Vigil 5:30pm

Int: Brian Spickett, Joy & Cyril Foster, Alice & Ralph Goodsell R.I.P.

Sunday 08.30am

Int: Edward & Doreen Whittaker R.I.P.

Sunday 10.15am

Int: People of Parish

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues 29th: 9.30am

Int: Deceased Relatives of the Rons family

Wed 30th : 9.30am

Int: Mr & Mrs Fresquez, Mr & Mrs Mc Donagh

Thurs 1st: 9.30am

Int: Austin family and Hansberry family R.I.P.

Fri 2nd: 9.30am

Int: Bicarregui, Shirley, Welch, families R.I.P.

CONFESSIONS

Tues-Fri 8.40 -9.20am

Sat 4.30-5.20pm

or by appointment

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS: TUES, THURS, FRI 10.00am-2.00pm - Tel 01474705361

Parish Priest: Fr Alphonsus Beni CSSp

Email: alphonsusbeni@rcaos.org.uk *(Day off: Mon)*

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE PRIEST

DIRECTLY FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Tel: 07500262446

Parish Secretary: Jane Pemberton

Parish Council Chair: Chris Pieroni

hartleypcc@rcaos.org.uk

Safeguarding representative: Judith Stephens

Email: hartleysg2safeguard@rcaos.org.uk

1) in the celebration of the sacraments and 2) in the lives and persons of the little ones, the poor and the oppressed.

This is what the Lord in the Gospel this Sunday is talking about when He said: "Stay awake!" – constant awareness of the present event, viz., the presence of Christ ("I am with you always until the end of time.") e) For the third and final coming of Christ – the Second Coming or Parousia – our preparation should not be for some remote event in the future, because this could happen at any time. Rather, if we do well our preparations for Christmas (first coming/past event) and for the present coming of Jesus in the sacraments and in the poor, we need not panic or be frantic in our preparations for the Parousia.

4. The Message

The Blessed Mother is with us in our Advent preparation. In fact, together with John the Baptist, she is the most prominent Advent figure because it was, she who conceived Jesus in her womb. Her pregnancy was the actual Advent in the flesh. She invites us: "Prepare yourselves with me!" a) She joins us in preparing for the liturgical celebration of Christmas. Faith, hope, charity and prayer should intensify. b) She is also with us in our preparation to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. In every Eucharistic celebration, Jesus is born in our midst. It is a perennial Christmas. We should also be aware that we encounter

Jesus today in the lives of the poor, the needy and helpless. c) She helps us in our preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. She is the dawn announcing the coming of Jesus, the glorious Sun that gives light to the world, driving away the darkness of unbelief, sin, impurity, hatred and egoism.

This means that we should be constantly aware of the presence of Christ. We should not prepare for something in the future. It is the now that truly matters. The past is gone but it teaches us the lessons for the present. The future does not yet exist. So, the best and only way to prepare for the future is to live the present the best way we can. And the present time that we live in is short – always short. St. Paul said: "Now is the time of salvation! The night is almost over. Let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light."

OUR PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be on Saturday 17th December at 11.00am.

PARISH NOTICES

PARISH SAFEGUARDING VOLUNTEER NEEDED

If you could assist Judith Stephens in the area of Parish Safeguarding and would like to discuss the role, please speak with Fr Alphonsus for guidance.

CELEBRATING ADVENT

All in the parish are invited to the meeting room from **8 pm to 9 pm on Fridays of Advent, starting 25th November**. We will consider the readings for the following Sundays in Advent. We will then reflect on what the texts meant to the early Christians, what they mean to us now, and what the Holy Spirit might be saying to us through them. Please try to come as part of the parish Advent preparation for Christmas.

PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets go on sale this weekend, to be drawn on Sunday 18th December Please see the attachment to this week's newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS FOR DECORATING THE CHURCH

We are organising a working party for Monday 5th December from 10.30am. Contact Tina Shirley tinashirley28@gmail.com if you have any queries.

PARISH FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 11th December at 3 o'clock. The service will consist of Readings, Carols, and a Nativity Scene. Both Senior and Junior Choirs will be leading the Congregational Carols as well as singing other well loved Carols. The service is in aid of the S.V.P. annual Christmas appeal to support our local families in need. Please join us.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

The November 200 club draw will take place at the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 27th November. To become a 200 Club member, the relevant Information, forms and details for payment are available in the church porch and on the website.

CWC MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

'Will be held at the earlier time of 1pm. I would ask anyone wishing to join us, kindly bring a small plate of food to share so we can enjoy a lunchtime together. We can assure you of a couple of hours of good company, pleasant chat tea and cake to finish. Looking forward to seeing you on the 14th'. *Margaret Walsh, for the CWC.*

CATACHETICAL PROGRAMMES

Parishioners are asked to first check the **SACRAMENTS** section on the parish website; it has general information on the programmes. Please speak with Fr Alphonsus for any further advice. Sacramental programmes for school-aged children are lead by the parish, and are not school lead programmes. **Families wishing to enrol for Sacramental programmes must be registered parishioners of St Francis de Sales.**

BAPTISM FOR BABIES AND INFANTS

Parents of infants and those seeking Baptism, please attend a weekend Mass and speak with Fr. Alphonsus afterwards to register for the Baptism course. **If you have not yet registered your family on the parish database, you need to complete and submit a Parish Registration Form, available from the church or parish website, thankyou.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – FOR CHILDREN YR TO Y2

Will take place this Sunday 27th November, at the 10.15am Mass. Please bring your child to the meeting room **before** the start of Mass. Thankyou

YOUTH CHOIR PRACTISE

Sunday 27th November at 9.30am in Our Lady of Hartley School.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

Sunday 27th November at 9.30am in Our Lady of Hartley School.

CONFIRMATION IN 2023

Confirmation Classes will begin on Tuesday 6th December at 6.30pm in the meeting room.

Any young person in school year 8 or above by would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023, Application Forms are available in the church porch or on the parish website. Parents should speak to Fr Alphonsus and return completed forms to the parish office before 6th December.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Are You Interested in Becoming a Catholic? If you have never been baptized, if you were baptized in another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, or if you were baptized Catholic, but never received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation, you are welcome to join the RCIA programme, the process by which adults become

Catholic. Likewise, if you are Catholic and interested in learning more about the Faith, you are welcome to join. **Please speak to Fr Alphonsus if you are interested in joining the course this year. Lessons are currently take place on Saturday mornings in the church meeting room.**

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Any adult who does not receive Communion, please do come and speak with Fr Alphonsus for guidance.

REGULAR NOTICES

PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome all new parishioners to St Francis de Sales, Hartley. We want you to feel at home in the parish. **The first thing to do is to register yourself/ your family on the Parish registration Database.** Parish Registration Forms are available in the porch, or on the parish website to complete and return to the parish office.

PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AIDED DONATIONS SUPPORTING THE RUNNING COSTS OF THE PARISH

Please choose one of the following options:

(i) Set up a Bank Standing Order (ii) Donate Online (iii) Use Weekly Envelopes (iv) Cash/Cheque payable to RCAS Hartley (v) One off Donation (vi) Contactless Giving. **Online donations to: Nat West Account RCAS Hartley: 34143580 sort code: 60-06-33**

If you are a taxpayer, please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme, 25p in every £1 can be claimed back by the parish.

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC SCHOOL

Christmas Fayre on Saturday 3rd December 12-3pm

For the latest news, please visit the school website at www.ourladyhartley.kent.sch.uk

VISITING THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

If you or someone in your family is housebound and would like a priest to visit, please do contact Father Alphonsus directly or call the parish office, thankyou

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

We have a small, friendly group here at St. Francis de Sales whose members can visit to meet up and chat or maybe just to lend a listening ear. Contact Fr. Alphonsus and he will put you in touch with us.

DONATION BOX FOR GRAVESEND FOODBANK

Non perishable items can be left in the Food Bank Box in the Meeting Room or in the porch. Thankyou.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

'We are a small group of people who offer confidential support through phone calls, house visits, accompany to local medical/dental appointments. We also offer confidential financial support to families. Contact via the parish office'.

'SEEKING SANCTUARY' DONATIONS NEEDED.

Toiletries, hats, gloves & warm clothing for young men, can be left in the blue box in the meeting room. Thankyou for your kindness to those in need.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

'Advent can be such a busy demanding time, but we encourage you to make some space to reflect and pray this advent. Sign up for our free Southwark Diocesan 'Daily Advent Reflections' to aid your prayer. You will receive an email with a very brief thought for the day based on the daily reading. It is an opportunity to listen to Gods invitation to you this advent. Sign up: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/> clicking on the Advent Reflection box'. *Bishop Paul Hendricks*

TEXTS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S MASSES

First Sunday of Advent Year A

Isaiah 2: 1-5 The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom

Psalms Response *I rejoiced when I heard them say 'Let us go to God's house.'*

Romans 13:11-14 Our salvation is near.

Luke 23: 35-43 Stay awake so that you may be ready.

FOR DAILY PRAYERS AND MASS READINGS ONLINE,
VISIT <https://www.universalis.com/>

PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

ADULT CHOIR

Every Thursday at 7:30pm in the church, unless stated otherwise in the newsletter. New members welcome. Contact: Yvonne Hegarty at yhegarty@talktalk.net

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

Third Wednesday each month at 7:00pm in the church meeting room. New members welcome. Contact: William Rons at williamrons@hotmail.com

OFFERTORY COLLECTION 20th NOVEMBER 2022

Envelopes: £30.50 Loose Plate: £47.80

Contactless machine: £5.00

2nd Collection CYS: £59.10

Contactless Donations to the church: £10.00

Thatch Fund: £56.20

2nd Collection this weekend 27th November:

The Catholic Children's Society

*Thankyou for your generosity and support,
may God bless you all.*

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at **£35,398.36** of the **£45,000.00** Target to reach in 2023. Thankyou for your **£1 a Week** donation. You may deposit your £1 in one of the Thatch Fund Boxes at the back of the church OR set up a £4 monthly/ £52 annual standing order at: **Nat West RCAS Hartley Acc 34363181 Sort Code 60-06-33**. If you are a tax payer and use the parish Gift Aid scheme, please put your £1 in an envelope marked with your GA number. Or use our JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/St-Francis-de-Sales-Hartley

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

Contact confidentially through the parish office.

CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE (CWC)

Second Wednesday each month in the church meeting room at 2:00pm unless stated otherwise. Contact Margaret Walsh for more details.

YOUTH GROUP

Leaders' meetings will take place in the meeting room. Contact: Laura Bourne through the parish office.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son in the Eucharist. We now place before you all the sick and housebound of our parish.

As they share in this Eucharist with us, we pray that they may come to know the depth of your love for them and, the joy, the peace and healing of your presence. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the parish secretary: hartley@rcaos.org.uk. **Newsletter items received after 11:00am Friday may not be included that week.** Editor reserves the right to edit articles. A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark. CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050