



This parish is served by the Spiritans

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A Mass Book A Vol 1 page 130

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Please join us in the school hall for refreshments after the 10.15am Mass this Sunday 29th January, everyone is most welcome.

**APOSTOLIC LETTER 'TOTUM AMORIS EST' - 'every thing pertains to love'
- OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE 4TH CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES.**

**We have made a booklet of Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter - please do take a
copy home with you to read, they are available in the church porch.**

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World Leprosy Day – Sunday 29th January 2023

World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January every year to raise awareness of leprosy. This particular date was chosen as a tribute to the life of Mahatma Gandhi who had great compassion for people with leprosy, and who was assassinated on 30 January 1948.

Many people might think of leprosy as a disease of ancient times, generally perceived as an illness to fear; destroying health and well-being, Leprosy is mentioned many times in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testament. It is described as a scourge, a curse and a terrible affliction requiring cleansing. In three of the Gospels, we read how Jesus cured a man with leprosy after he begged Jesus to cure him.

In the Middle Ages, St Francis of Assisi followed in the footsteps of Jesus. In more recent times, the Roman Catholic priest, Father Damien (1840-1889) now known as St Damien of Molokai, cared for leprosy outcasts on the island of Molokai. Many other notable individuals have dedicated their lives to caring for people with leprosy, including the nurse Kate Marsden (1859-1931) who founded St Francis Leprosy Guild, the philanthropist Raoul Follereau (1903-1997), who founded the leprosy charity Fondation Raoul Follereau and Mother Teresa of Pakistan, the physician, Dr Ruth Pfau (1929-2017).

What about leprosy now?

The [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int) recently reported that thousands of adults and children have been diagnosed with leprosy in 2021/2022.



THE CHURCH IS OPEN

Tues-Fri 8.45am-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-6.30pm

Sun 7.45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 28th January

**5.30pm: Int: Winnifred
Connelly R.I.P.**

Sun 29th January

08.30am:

**10.15am: Int. People
of the Parish**

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 31st: 09.30am

St John Bosco, Memorial

Wed 1st: 09.30am

Int. David Coffey R.I.P.

Thurs 2nd : 9.30am

**The Presentation of the
Lord, Feast.**

Fri 3rd: 9.30am

**St. Lawrence of
Canterbury, Memorial**

CONFESSIONS

Tues-Fri 8.40 -9.20am

Sat 4.30-5.20pm

or by appointment

PARISH OFFICE 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

Email: hartleypcc@rcaos.org.uk

Safeguarding representative: Judith Stephens

Email: hartleysg2safeguard@rcaos.org.uk

2021/2022. Many were diagnosed with visible disabilities such as blindness, clawed hands or lost digits, that will affect their lives forever.

Moreover, it is readily acknowledged that millions more are undiagnosed, spreading infection within their communities or, living with its life-changing effects such as blindness, clawed hands, or chronic tropical ulcers. Hundreds of leprosy communities still exist in remote locations throughout the world where people ostracised by leprosy, live out the rest of their lives.

OUR 2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND WILL SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE ST. FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD. Visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org

TEXTS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13 In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

PSALM response *How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 God chose what is foolish by human reckoning.

Matthew 5:1-12 How happy are the poor in spirit

TEXTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MASS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13 In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

PSALM response *How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 God chose what is foolish by human reckoning.

Matthew 5:1-12 How happy are the poor in spirit

FOR DAILY PRAYERS AND MASS READINGS

ONLINE, VISIT <https://www.universalis.com/>

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.

PARISH NOTICES

ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

Membership for the 200 club is open. To become a member, you will find information and forms in the porch area of the church or on the parish website. **Our January Draw will take place Sunday 29th after 8.30am Mass. There is still time to join and enter this month's Draw. Please contact Tina Shirley or Kate Whittaker for any assistance.**

CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE

The parish CWC will have their first gathering of 2023 on 8th February from 1.45 to 4.00pm. All are most welcome to join us in the church Meeting room; we are looking forward to a pleasant get together, chat and tea. If you would like to come but require transport, please do contact the parish office and we will try our best to help.

THE HART MAGAZINE

Father Alphonsus has written the main article in the February edition of The Hart. Copies of The Hart will be found in the Meeting Room. Please see Carol for further details.

PARISH CEILIDH ON SATURDAY 4th MARCH 2023

Will take place in New Ash Green Village Hall from 7.30pm-10.30pm. Please see the details on the flyer and contact Kate or Anna to book tickets or for any assistance. Thankyou.

'EASYFUNDRAISING' - DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

Please use [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oratoryofsaintfrancisdesalesutm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2) every time you shop online! Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started by clicking on:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oratoryofsaintfrancisdesalesutm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2 Or Visit www.easyfundraising.co.uk for more.

CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES

Parishioners are asked to first check the **SACRAMENTS** section on the parish website for 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. **Families wishing to enrol**

adults or children for Sacramental programmes must be registered parishioners, attending Mass.

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 will need to complete and submit a Parish Registration Form, available in the porch area or on the parish website, thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – FOR CHILDREN IN YR TO Y2

10.15am Sunday 22nd January. Please bring your child into the Meeting Room before Mass begins.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 2023 PROGRAMME

Enrolment for the 2023 program is now closed.

Preparation Classes will begin on Friday 3rd February in the Meeting Room promptly at 3.30pm

CONFIRMATION IN 2023

Confirmation preparation classes take place on Tuesdays during term time in the church meeting room 6.30-8.00pm, unless otherwise notified.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

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

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 2023.

Lessons take place on Saturday mornings in the church meeting room, unless otherwise notified.

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 introduce yourself to the parish priest and register yourself/your family on the Parish Registration Database.** Forms are available in the porch, or on the parish website to complete and return. Please consider how you can support the parish community with your time, talents and resources.

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the latest information and school news, visit us at www.ourladyhartley.kent.sch.uk

DONATION BOX FOR GRAVESEND FOODBANK

Non perishable items can be left in one of the Food

Bank Boxes, in the Meeting Room or in the porch. Thankyou for your kind support.

'SEEKING SANCTUARY' - support for migrants

Donations of warm clothing and toiletries, can be placed into the blue box in the Meeting Room. Please visit <https://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com/>

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

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

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 to arrange a time. Thankyou

MARRIAGE PAPERWORK PROCESS

You are required to give 6 months notice of Marriage— whether it is taking place here or abroad. Couples wishing to be married should speak to Fr Alphonsus as early as possible to begin the process.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

'SHARING THE CHURCH'S STORY'

On Saturday 11th February between 10am - 5pm at the QEII centre (London).

Catholic Voices, the Word on Fire Institute, and the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, will be hosting a one-day conference called 'Sharing the Church's Story'. The vision of the conference is to bring people together in person for an experience of profound personal renewal and to be equipped for mission. Bishop Robert Barron will be the keynote speaker. All are welcome. Find out more details by clicking the link below:

<https://www.sharingthechurchstory.com/>

ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK LENT RETREAT 2023 - 'RENEWED IN HOPE'

Make some space to develop your relationship with God this Lent. Sign up for the Diocesan Lent Retreat "Renewed in Hope". Every week you will receive an email with links to a 20-minute video in which Archbishop John will introduce the theme and the reading, Chris Chapman will deliver the retreat programme and a witness will speak of the relevance in their daily life. You will also receive materials to use in your own prayer and reflection.

Just sign up here <http://eepurl.com/hVT7Dv> Set aside what space you can for reflection and join us in being Renewed in Hope

CYMFED FLAME: SATURDAY 4th MARCH 2023

At the OVO Wembley Arena, an inspirational day of worship, top-rated speakers, fantastic music and the chance to join together in prayer, for Year 9 (14 years) through to university age. Visit The Catholic Youth Ministry Federation website cymfed.org.uk
To book your tickets (either individual or group) go to: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/store/p/flame2023>

PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

We have a small, friendly group whose members can visit to chat or just to lend a listening ear. Please speak to Fr. Alphonsus and he will put you in touch with us. Meetings/visits are held in strict confidence.

YOUTH GROUP

Meetings take place in the meeting room. Contact: Laura Bourne through the office.

ADULT CHOIR

Thursdays at 7:30pm in the church. New members are welcome. Contact: Yvonne at yhegarty@talktalk.net

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

Contact us confidentially via the parish office.

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

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

CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE (CWC)

Second Wednesday of the month in the church meeting room at 2:00pm unless stated otherwise.
NB. Our next meeting will be on 8th February 2023.

Catenians (Meopham Circle)

First Wednesday each month at 7.30pm at Hartley Country Club. Contact Les Bober 07811 407386 or Steve Lewis our Secretary 07305 360305.

PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH MEETING ROOM IS NOT FREE ON TUESDAYS 6.30-8.30PM & FRIDAYS 3.30PM-4.30PM (TERM-TIME) & SATURDAYS 10.00AM-12noon

OFFERTORY COLLECTION 22nd JANUARY 2023

Envelopes: £37.00 Loose Plate: £44.85

Contactless Card Collection : £15.00

2nd Collection 22nd January: £90.00

Thankyou all for your support to the parish

Our 2nd Collection this weekend:

World Leprosy Day 2023

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at £36,304.96 of the £45,000.00 Target to reach in 2023.

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 using the parish Gift Aid scheme, *please* note your GA number to your donation. Or go to our JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/St-Francis-de-Sales-Hartley

‘PLANNED GIVING’ and GIFT-AIDED DONATIONS

The parish relies on contributions to maintain the church building and presbytery, supporting the priest in his ministry which is the Church's Mission.

If you have not already, please consider setting up a Monthly Bank Standing Order. This is most helpful to the parish for budgeting and planning projects for the future – it is non-binding and you may cancel at any time.

Other ways to contribute are: (i) Weekly Gift Aid Envelopes (ii) Use the Contactless Machine in the church (iii) Cash or Cheque payable to RCAS Hartley (iv) One-off Donation envelopes (v) Online transactions to Nat West Bank, Account: RCAS Hartley. Acc 34143580 sort code: 60-06-33
If you are a taxpayer, all donations, however you choose to make them, can be Gift-Aided at no cost to you by joining the Gift Aid Scheme—for every £1 you contribute, an extra 25p can be claimed back for the parish.

Bank Standing-Order and Parish Gift-Aid information can be found on the parish website www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk Hard copies can be found on the shelf in the porch. Or please make enquiries through the parish office. **Thankyou**

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