



This parish is served by the Spiritans

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A Mass Book A Vol 1 page 133**

**REFLECTION ON RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

'Today, the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates Racial Justice Sunday, a day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. As we mark Racial Justice Sunday, we come together to reflect on the theme ***"All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church: Let us walk together, pray together and work together."***

The United Kingdom is a society that is richly blessed with multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multicultural, and multi-religious communities. It is very much imperative that all these communities come together to walk together, because there is strength in togetherness. There is an African proverb that says, "if you want to walk fast, walk alone; but if you want to walk far, walk together."

When we walk together, we all feel the joy of building a peaceful community. The impact of the journey will not be felt. But we cannot walk together if we are not able to listen attentively to and understand one another. As we walk together to build a just and peaceful community, let us cultivate the conscious disposition to listen actively to one another's experiences and needs.

Different people see the world through different lenses. No one has a monopoly of knowledge, so walking together enables us to bring our gifts together to build our communities. In walking together, we can share ideas and learn different ways of doing the same thing or different ways of doing new things. In walking together, we may discover that there are gifts or talents in other cultures that we may not necessarily have picked up either because those gifts or talents do not exist in our culture in that shape or form, or may be they do not even exist at all in our cultures. In all of this, they make us a better person. We do not lose our identity, rather they make it even stronger and better. Much more, when the community moves together, everybody is a part of the community, they partake in the fraternity and benefit from the interdependence, thereby confirming the African "Ubuntu" theory that says, "I am because you are, we are because I am." Therefore, let us always walk together.'

Fr Paul Odion, MSP

**Our 2nd Collection this weekend will go to support the work of The Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) Please take a prayer card home and pray this week for racial justice in our world. Visit [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk) to learn more.**

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

**Tues-Fri 8.45am-4.00pm**

**Sat 10.00am-6.30pm**

**Sun 7.45am-12noon**

**SUNDAY MASS**

**Sat 4th February**

**5.30pm:** Int: People of the Parish

**Sun 5th February**

**08.30am:** Int. Evelyn Moore, 90th Birthday

**10.15am:** Int. For racial Justice

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tues 7th: 09.30am**

**Wed 8th: 09.30am**

Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking

**Thurs 9th: 9.30am**

**Fri 10th: 9.30am**

**St. Scholastica, Mem.**

Int: Fr Alphonsus, in Thanksgiving on his Birthday.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:hartleypcc@rcaos.org.uk)**

**Safeguarding representative: Judith Stephens**

**Email: [hartleysg2safeguard@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hartleysg2safeguard@rcaos.org.uk)**

## TEXTS FOR SUNDAY MASS

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

**ISAIAH 58: 7-10** Then will your light shine like the dawn

**PSALM RESPONSE** *The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright*

**1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5** During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus as the crucified Christ.

**MATTHEW 5: 13-16** You are the light of the world.

## TEXTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MASS

### **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

**Ecclesiasticus 15: 15-20** He never commanded anyone to be godless

**PSALM RES.** *They are happy who follow God's law.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-10** God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.

**MATTHEW 5 17-37** You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.

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

### **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**

**January winners:** 1st Prize no 25 B Mullan £50 2nd Prize no 67 M Baynes £25. 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. Please speak to Tina Shirley or Kate Whittaker for assistance.

### **CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE MEETING THIS WEEK**

The parish CWC will gather on **WEDNESDAY 8th February from 1.45 to 4.00pm in the church Meeting Room.** We are looking forward a pleasant get together, chat and cup of tea, all are welcome!

## **STEWARDSHIP AT WEEKEND MASS**

**Could you be a steward?** We are looking for volunteers to go on a rota to act as steward for the weekend Masses, especially the 10.15 Sunday Mass. You would need to arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of the Mass, and be free during the Mass to organise the Offertory Procession, and ensure that readers are present and go up to read at the appropriate time. Other duties will be explained, full training will be given, and you will work with another steward. Please consider whether this might be something you could do to contribute to the life of the parish.

**Meeting for Stewards:** All stewards, but especially those who attend the 10.15 Sunday Mass, are invited to a meeting with Fr. Alphonsus this Sunday, 5th February, after the 10.15 Mass.

### **PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The next Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday 18th February starting at 9 o'clock in the Parish Meeting Room. For catering purposes please let Carol know if you will be joining us [carolwilton0@gmail.com](mailto:carolwilton0@gmail.com)

### **PARISH BARN DANCE CEILIDH ON SATURDAY 4th MARCH 2023, with live music from the Aqueducts**

This parish social will take place in New Ash Green Village Hall from 7.30pm-10.30pm. Bring your family and friends. **For tickets & further information please contact Kate 0785431948 or Anna 07703475720. Thankyou.**

### **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.

### **'EASYFUNDRAISING' - DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?**

Please use **easyfundraising** 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](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oratoryofsaintfrancisdesalesutm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2) Or Visit [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://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.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY – FOR CHILDREN IN YR TO Y2**

10.15am Sunday 5th February. Please bring your child into the Meeting Room before Mass begins.

### **SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 2023 PROGRAMME**

Preparation Classes take place on Fridays during term time, 3.30-4.30pm in the church meeting room

### **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](http://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 <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, 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 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](http://cymfed.org.uk). To book Tickets: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/store/p/flame2023>

## THE UNIVERSE Catholic Weekly Newspaper

*Is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it"*

Call Michelle on 07436617650 to order your Digital 4 weeks FREE introductory offer or email her at [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

Please see the church noticeboard for more details.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:williamrons@hotmail.com)

### CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE (CWC)

Second Wednesday of the month in the church meeting room at 2:00pm unless stated otherwise.

Contact: Margaret Walsh.

### CATENIANS (Meopham Circle)

First Wednesday each month at 7.30pm at Hartley Country Club. Contact: Les Bober, Membership Officer 07811 407386, or Steve Lewis, our Secretary, 07305 360305, to learn more about our organisation.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION 29th JANUARY 2023

Envelopes: £55.00 Loose Plate: £42.00

Contactless Card Collection : £47.00

2nd Collection World Leprosy Day: £57.20

*Thankyou all for your support to the parish*

Our 2nd Collection this weekend:

Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)

## THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at **£36,351.46** 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050