



This parish is served by the Spiritans

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT AND SECOND SCRUTINY YEAR A Mass Book page 164

MOTHERS DAY REFLECTION

Mothers will be celebrated by their families this weekend in special ways. There will be flowers and sweets; phone calls from children who live too far away for a visit; cards and gifts; breakfast in bed or brunch or dinner at a nice restaurant. Keep a place in your prayer this day for all the mothers who will rejoice with their families this weekend.

Some women will spend this Mothers' Day in anticipation of the birth of a child they're carrying – perhaps their first child – a child whose ultrasound image has already won the hearts of mom and dad. Other expectant mothers are making their way through the long process of adoption – or perhaps the arrival of their adopted love is just around the corner! Keep a place in your prayer this Mothers' Day for those who are expecting the arrival of a child – and pray that both mother and child will be healthy.

Some mothers have raised children with no spouse to help and support them. Some mothers have chosen this path, but others have not. Let's keep a place in our prayer for those who know the burdens of single-parent mothering and, when able, open ourselves and our homes to offer what company and help we might give.

My heart goes out to women who want very much to be mothers but who, for any number of reasons, are unable to bear a child. I know this day can be difficult for them, even as they celebrate their own mothers with love and devotion. Let's keep a place in our prayer for women who long for a child with all their heart and soul.

Part of my ministry is to serve the bereaved. I once celebrated the funeral of a wonderful woman, a fine mother, a woman with faith as great as it was simple, as beautiful as it was profound. Her family grieved and prayed for her, and I know this Mothers' Day will be especially difficult for them. Let's keep a place in our prayer this weekend for those whose grief over losing their mother is fresh in their minds and hearts.

We live in world where children are born to families able and ready to care for them and we live in a world where millions of children will be hungry this Mother's Day.

(continued overleaf)

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

Tues-Fri 8.45am-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-6.30pm

Sun 7.45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 18th March

Vigil Mass 5.30pm

Int The Wilde family

Sunday 19th March

8.30am

Int Robin Lumley R.I.P

10.15am

Int People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 21st March

9.30am

Wed 22nd March

9.30am

Thursday 23rd March

9.30am Int. Elaine May

Recently deceased.

Friday 24th March

NB No Mass at 9.30am

11.00am Requiem

Mass for Joseph

Anthony Coutts

7.30pm Stations of the

Cross

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

We live in a world where some nations limit the number of children a couple may legally have. And we live in a world where many champion the “right” to end the life of a child already conceived. For the mothers of all these children, and for their children, let us keep a place in our prayer this weekend.

Some children have mothers who failed to care for them. Their sons and daughters understand deeply the lyrics of that old song, “Sometimes I feel like a motherless child.” And some mothers will be burdened today with memories of how they missed the signs of harm being done to their own by others. Let’s keep a place of prayer in our hearts for those whose hearts are heavy today.

Some mothers today will be forgotten by their children: no visit, no card, no call, no candy or flowers. Some mothers this day don’t know where a son or daughter has gone or what has become of them. A mother’s heart aches on this day for the child of her womb who has forgotten her or who has disappeared. Pray with me on this Mother’s Day for women who wait for a call that will not come.

Many mothers will remember today a child they’ve lost to sickness, an accident, war or other violence, miscarriage or abortion. A parent’s grief for a child can be unfathomable – and a mother’s grief is deeper than any. We Christians pray and believe that one day we shall see those who have gone before us and enjoy their love again. Keep a place in your heart for mothers who need the consolation of such faith and pray they’ll trust that the Lord will indeed keep his word.

Some mothers today will not know or recognize their children when they come to visit. Time has robbed them of their memory of even those they love the most. Keep a place in your prayer today for mothers who may know their children in their heart of hearts but are unable to remember or speak their names. And pray for those sons and daughters who tell their mothers of their love, hoping that a mother’s heart will hear what her mind no longer holds.

This Mothers’ Day, we turn our hearts to Mary, the Mother of God, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all: Christ’s sisters and brothers. With a mother’s care she raised her Son and lived the joys and the grief that only a mother’s heart can know. Whatever our spirits on this Mothers’ Day

weekend, the Mother of Jesus embraces us all, so let us pray...

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

TEXTS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 David is anointed king of Israel

PSALM RES. *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want*

Ephesians 5:8-14 Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you

John 9: 1-41 The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored

Communion Antiphon *The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God*

TEXTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MASS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Ezekiel 37:12-14 I shall put my spirit in you and you will live.

PSALM RES. *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption*

Romans 8:8-11 The spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you

John 11: 1-45 I am the resurrection and the life

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

MONTH OF MARCH, DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEPH

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires.

O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

O St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him close in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

On Fridays at 7.30pm, in the church and on livestream. Please join us in person or online.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 22nd MARCH 2023

If there are any matters you would like raised for discussion at the meeting, please contact Chris Pieroni, Chair, at hartleypcc@rcaos.org.uk.

REQUIEM MASS FOR JOSEPH COUTTS (JOE)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joe Coutts and remember Charles, Rosalind and Jonathan in our prayers at this time. Joe's funeral will take place here on Friday 24th March at 11.00am. For those who cannot attend, the Mass will be livestreamed.

PARISH FETE ON SATURDAY 10th JUNE 2023

Please see the attachment to this week's newsletter for information on our upcoming fete.

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 weekend Mass and speak with Fr. Alphonsus afterwards to register for the Baptism course.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – FOR CHILDREN IN YR TO Y2
Sunday 19th March 2023. Please take your child to the Meeting Room before 10.15am Mass begins.

As a matter of Safeguarding, the meeting room will not be free for use during Mass when Children's Liturgy is taking place; with our apologies for any inconvenience, thankyou for your consideration.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

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

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 meeting room.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 2023.

Meeting on Saturday mornings in the meeting room

DIOCESAN NOTICES

2ND COLLECTION FOR POOR PARISHES THIS WEEK

Formerly the 'Needs of the Diocese' collection, this collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the Diocese. With thanks for your anticipated outreach and support.

LAUNCH OF 'CARITAS SOUTHWARK'

This Saturday 18th March at 12.30pm, with Mass at St Georges' Cathedral. All are very welcome.

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". You will receive a weekly email with links to a 20-minute video in which Archbishop John will introduce the theme and the reading, along with materials to use in your own prayer and reflection. Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/hVT7Dv>
Visit: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

THE ALL NATIONS CATHOLIC CHARASMATIC GROUP **Day of healing- 'By His stripes we are healed'**

At Our Lady of Annunciation Catholic Church, Addiscombe, Croydon on Saturday 25th March from 10 am until 4pm. Come and encounter the Lord who forgives all our iniquities.'

Please see the noticeboard for further details.

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 the Food Bank Boxes, placed in the Meeting Room or in the porch.

'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 us 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

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. Please speak to Tina Shirley or Kate Whittaker for more

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.

YOUTH GROUP

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

2nd Wednesday of the month in the church meeting room at 2:00pm, unless stated otherwise. Open invitation, all are welcome. Contact: Margaret Walsh.

CATENIANS (Meopham Circle)

First Wednesday each month at 7.30pm at Hartley Country Club. To find out more on our organisation, please contact Les Bober, Membership Officer on 07811 407386 or Steve Lewis, Secretary, on 07305 360305.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 12th March 2023

Envelopes: £120.00 Loose Plate: £30.20

Standing Order: £262.50 Contactless: £30.00

2nd Collection 12th March: £39.90

Thankyou for your contributions

2nd Collection this weekend, 19th March:

DIOCESAN COLLECTION for POOR PARISHES

Please see the notice in the newsletter

Next week's 2nd Collection, 26th March:

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR EASTER

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at **£36,821.03 of the **£45,000.00** Target to reach by the end of 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 with your donation. **Or** donate via *JustGiving* at 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, 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 your donations can be Gift-Aided at no extra 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 Scheme information can be found on the parish website www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk Hard copies are on the shelf in the church porch.

Thankyou for your support to the parish

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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