



Oratory of St. Francis de Sales
Roman Catholic Parish
Archdiocese of Southwark

Parish Newsletter 16th April 2023

White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW

Tel: 01474705361 **Email** hartley@rcaos.org.uk

Web: <http://saintfrancisdesales.org.uk>

StFrancisDeSalesHartley

sfdhartley sfdhartley

<https://tinyurl.com/vc7w838m>

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



This parish is served by the Spiritans

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - or of DIVINE MERCY Parish Mass Book page 255

REFLECTION ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

It was Jesus Himself, through the mediation of this humble and holy religious sister, Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament, Who instituted the Feast of Mercy that we celebrate today. Jesus spoke on numerous occasions about His desire that this feast be instituted as a universal Feast of Mercy to be celebrated throughout the world on the eighth day of Easter every year.

From the time of her death in 1938, the private revelations from Jesus to Sister Faustina began to be read and shared. At first, the Feast of Mercy was celebrated by only a few who knew of these messages. As these private revelations began to circulate further, there were some within the Church who questioned their authenticity. Thus, on March 6, 1959, the writings of Sister Faustina were put on the "forbidden" list by the Holy Office, Rome. However, in 1965, with the permission of the same Holy Office, the Archbishop of Kraków, Poland, Archbishop Karol Wojtyła, began an informative process in which new light was shed upon Sister Faustina and her writings. This process concluded on April 15, 1978, with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Rome, issuing a new decree permitting the spread of Sister Faustina's writings and the new devotion to The Divine Mercy. Then, by the providence of God, just six months later, the Archbishop of Kraków, Karol Wojtyła, was elected pope, taking the name Pope John Paul II. A little over two decades later, on April 30, 2000, Sister Faustina was canonized a saint in a ceremony presided over by Pope John Paul II. During her canonization, the Holy Father also instituted the Feast of Mercy for the universal Church to be celebrated on the eighth day of the Octave of Easter every year.

The providence of God is truly amazing. God started with this humble cloistered nun. He allowed His private revelations to be scrutinized by the Church and ultimately hand picked one of the greatest popes our Church has ever known to introduce these private revelations to the world. It's amazing to ponder the process by which these revelations went from the silent cloister of Sister Faustina to the universal Church. One thing this process truly tells us is that God must deeply desire that we immerse ourselves in the messages of Divine Mercy given through Saint Faustina.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

Tues-Fri 8:45am-4:00pm

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 15th April

Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Int People of the Parish

Sunday 16th April

8:30am

10:15am

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 18th April

9:30am NO MASS

Wed 19th April

9:30am NO MASS

Thursday 20th April

9:30am NO MASS

Friday 21st April

9:30am NO MASS

CONFESSIONS

Wed-Fri 8:40-9:20am

Sat 4:30-5:20pm

or by appointment

NB Confession not

available 17-22 April

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

It was by God's providence that these messages slowly moved from the silence of the cloister in Kraków, Poland, to the universal Church beginning in the year 2000. Though it may be tempting to think that these messages are old and outdated, we should realize that God knew how long it would take for them to become instituted as a universal feast for all. Therefore, though these messages were first revealed before 1938, it was God's plan that they would especially be needed and read starting in the year 2000 and beyond. The message of Divine Mercy is especially for us today.

Reflect, today, upon this beautiful providence of God in bringing forth His message of mercy. Allow His providential methodology to not only inspire you but also to greatly encourage you to immerse yourself in the messages given to us from Jesus through Saint Faustina. Try to commit yourself to reading these messages so that, through them, God's providence will be able to come to fruition.

(Most merciful God, You are The Divine Mercy, You are Mercy Itself. Help me to continually ponder this glorious gift of Your Mercy in my life. May the inspired writings of Saint Faustina especially be a gift to me so that their messages will bring forth Your mercy more fully in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.)

TEXTS FOR SUNDAY MASS

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER or of DIVINE MERCY

Acts 2:42-47 The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common.

PSALM RES. *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

1 Peter 1: 3-9 In his great mercy he has given us a new birth as his sons by raising Jesus from the dead.

John 20: 19-31 Eight days later, Jesus came.

Communion Antiphon: *Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving, but believing, alleluia.*

NEXT SUNDAY MASS: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:42-47 The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common.

PSALM RES. *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

1 Peter 1: 3-9 In his great mercy he has given us a new birth as his sons by raising Jesus from the dead.

John 20: 19-31 Eight days later, Jesus came.

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

REGINA CAELI

During the Season of Easter, we pray the Regina Caeli before each Mass, in place of The Angelus.

V/ Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R/ For he, whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V/ Has risen as he said, alleluia.

R/ Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V/ Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R/ For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; grant we beseech thee, that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

FR. ALPHONSUS

Fr Alphonsus will be on priestly annual retreat next week. There will not be any weekday Masses here from Tues-Fri. In case of emergency requiring a priest, please contact Gravesend, Meopham, or Dartford parish.

'SEEKING SANCTUARY' EXHIBITION

On Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd April, after Masses, Phil Kerton will be exhibiting material in the meeting Room, about the Work of Seeking Sanctuary and the Church's teaching on the care of migrants. (This material was prepared for the launch of Caritas Southwark at St George's Cathedral in March.)

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 on any Sacramental programme must be registered parishioners, attending Mass regularly.**

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 will resume on Sunday 23rd April. 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 the time 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 2023 PROGRAMME

Preparation Classes resume on Friday 21st April, 3.30-4.30pm in the meeting room.

CONFIRMATION 2023– Sunday 11th June

Bishop Paul Hendricks will be visiting the parish on the Feast of Corpus Christi, to confirm our 4 young parishioners. Let us keep them in our prayers.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 2023.

Congratulations to Abrafi, Arit, Chiedza, Jessica, Robert and Alex, who were received into Full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil last Saturday 8th April. May the Lord continue to bless them and their families as they continue their journey in faith.

Anyone who is interested in joining the RCIA program for next year, please do speak to Fr Alphonsus as soon as possible about enrolment.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH DAY

A youth day for (10-16 year olds) will take place at St. George's Cathedral on Saturday 22nd April. The day will include a mixture of faith input, food, prayer and sport/crafts. Please see the church noticeboard for further details and contact the parish office if your child would be interested in going along as part of a parish youth group. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/aprilyouthday> or contact youth@rcaos.org.uk.

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. Speak to Tina or Kate for any further assistance.

THE UNIVERSE Catholic Weekly Newspaper

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

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. All matters are held in strictest confidence.

YOUTH GROUP

Meetings with leaders take place in the meeting room.
Contact: Laura Bourne through the parish office.
All children are invited to join Youth Group events.

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. Open invitation. Contact: Margaret Walsh.

CATENIANS (Meopham Circle)

First Wednesday each month at 7.30pm at Hartley Country Club. For more information, contact Les Bober, Membership Officer on 07811 407386 or Steve Lewis, Secretary, on 07305 360305

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at £38,031.38

In response to the updated quotes we have received, our revised target must now be set at £55,000.00

Please deposit your £1 in the Thatch Fund Box at the back of the church OR simply set up a £4 monthly/ £52 annual standing order at: **Nat West Bank. Account name St Francis de Sales. Account number 34363181 Sort code 60-06-33.** If you are a UK tax payer, please submit a gift aid declaration form to the parish office or if you already use the parish Gift Aid scheme, *please* do note your GA number against any donation. Thankyou **Or** you may make a donation via our Justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/St-Francis-de-Sales-Hartley.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 9th April 2023

Envelopes: £140.00 Loose Plate: £345.00

Contactless: £47.00 Online banking: £190.00

Good Friday Collection for Holy Places: £60.00

Thatch Fund: £75.70

Thankyou for your contributions

EASTER OFFERING TO THE PARISH PRIEST

Thankyou for your Easter Offering gifts to the parish priest. If you were away from the parish last weekend, offerings can still be placed in the Easter envelopes which are on the table in the church porch. *If you donate by Standing Order, or use online banking, you may donate directly to the parish bank account Nat West Acc 34143580 Sort Code 60-06-33, with the reference 'Easter Offering'*

If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation. Likewise, if you are on the parish scheme, note your Gift Aid number against any donation. **Thankyou for your generous support.**

'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 done so, please consider setting up a Monthly Bank Standing Order.** This is most helpful to the parish for budgeting and planning for any future projects.

Other ways to support the parish are by:

- (i) Weekly Gift Aid Envelopes (Please contact the parish office for assistance)
- (ii) Using the Contactless Machine in the church
- (iii) Cash, or Cheque payable to **RCAS Hartley**
- (iv) Using One-off Donation white envelopes (These are on the table in the church porch)
- (v) Online transactions to Nat West Bank Account St Francis de Sales 34143580 sort code 60-06-33

Bank Standing-Order and Parish Gift-Aid Scheme information can be found on the parish website www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk OR on the shelf in the church porch. Please contact the parish office for any further help. Thankyou for your support.

'EASYFUNDRAISING' - SHOP ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR FREE! 600+ brands offer donations back when you purchase goods online, at no extra cost to you! Find out how to sign up and start raising funds for the parish while you shop. **Visit: www.easyfundraising.co.uk to get started**
Thankyou for all your generous support!

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.

CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

