



This parish is served by the Spiritans

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD Parish Mass Book page 176/181

REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Holy Week opens with the solemn celebration of the triumphant entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the Sunday immediately before His Passion. Up until now, Jesus had always resisted any show of acclaim but now He accepts it - but on His own terms. The people acclaim Him, who comes riding on a donkey and the foal of a donkey.

Here begins the great mystery of Holy Week. The Lord of all, supremely worthy of our worship, begins the unutterably deep descent into a humility and abasement which will end in torture and a slave's death so dreadful that it was never mentioned in polite Roman society.

It is the triumphal procession of the King before battle. He accepts the acknowledgement of who He is, the "Son of David", the long-awaited Messiah. Now He allows the people to give Him the title He has always forbidden in public. But how few of them realised what kind of kingship this was, what kind of Christ this had to be. The next time we find the people assembled as a crowd again and Jesus before them, disgraced, scourged, scorned by the religious and civil authorities, they were far from ready to acclaim Him but rather let Him, and even called for Him, to be crucified. That bright day of palms and strewn coats and shouts of "Hosanna" to Christ, the Salvation of the world, only found fulfilment after Jesus had gone down to the lowest depths and then risen to glory with the sole purpose of taking a redeemed humanity with Him into Heaven.

This was the meaning of the Paschal Sacrifice that the poor, the anawim, those who are seeking the Lord, should find the way to God open once more; that "All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord" (Ps.21) This was the purpose of the Cross, to return to the longing eyes of the Father the prodigal children, who had wandered so far away from Him.

For this He took on our nature so He could fight with evil, sin and death on our behalf: humble to heal our pride; repudiated, tortured, dying in agony to heal our self-centred self-love; obedient unto death out of love for His Father's will for our salvation, a love great enough to heal all the hatreds lurking in the human heart. We keep close to Him, uniting ourselves with all the intentions →

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

Tues-Fri 8.45am-4.00pm

Sat 10.00am-6.30pm

Sun 7.45am-12noon

PALM SUNDAY MASS

Sat 1st April Vigil Mass

5.30pm Int. Susan

Gregory, Thanksgiving

Sunday 2nd April

8.30am Int

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

HOLY WEEK MASSES

Tuesday 4th April

9.30am Int. Jack & Pat

Hinde Thanksgiving

Wed 5th April

No 9.30am Mass

Chrism Mass 11.00am,

St. George's Cathedral

EASTER TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday

6th April 7.30pm

Good Friday

7th April 3.00pm

Easter Vigil Saturday

8th April 7.30pm

EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am and 10.15am

CONFESSIONS

**Sat & Tues before Mass
or by appointment**

**NB. No Confessions on
Holy Saturday, 8th 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

of His Divine Heart. He gave His life for love of all of us. With Him we give ourselves into the hands of our Father in Heaven. We call on the protection of the Mother He gave us from the Cross.

And let us even rejoice, too, in the sure knowledge that He has risen from the dead, and as we die in His dying, we shall indeed rise in His rising. Suffering and death do not have the last word. Wherever there is love, neighbourly kindness, concern and selfless service, there is Love and the Name of Love is Jesus. "Many waters cannot quench love nor floods sweep it away." It is eternal and even death could not hold it, death could not hold Him, death will not hold our loved ones and death will not hold us.

O Lord, keep hope alive in our hearts. However dark the hour seems now, Jesus, the Morning Star will rise and never set again.

TEXTS FOR SUNDAY MASS

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)

Isaiah 50: 4-7 I did not cover my face against insult, I know I shall not be shamed.

PSALM RES. *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.*

Philippians 2: 8-9 He humbled himself but God raised him high

Matthew 26:14 -27:66 The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Communion Antiphon *Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, Your will be done.*

TEXTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MASS

EASTER SUNDAY, RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10:34, 37-43 We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection

PSALM RES. *This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad.*

Colossians 3:1-4 You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Sequence Please see the Mass Book page

John 20: 1-9 He must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon *Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.*

FOR DAILY PRAYERS AND DAILY MASS READINGS

ONLINE, VISIT <https://www.universalis.co.uk>

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

PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

Friday 31st March at 7.30pm, in the church and on livestream. Please join us in person or online.

CELEBRATING PALM SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND

Commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem will take place as follows:

At 5.30pm Mass – from the meeting Room, Blessing of palms with Solemn Entrance

At 8.30am Mass – from the Meeting Room, Blessing of palms with Solemn Entrance

At 10.15am Mass - weather permitting - Beginning outside the presbytery, White Friars, at 10.00am - Blessing of palms and Procession to the church, otherwise, from the Meeting Room at 10.00am.

GOOD FRIDAY 'WALK OF WITNESS'

This year's walk will commence from Saint Mary Magdalene in Longfield at 9 o'clock on Good Friday morning, 7th April. The walk will end at Saint Peter's in Ridley. Further details from Carol - carolwilton0@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MAY PILGRIMAGE TO OUR SHRINE

As King Charles is being crowned on our usual date, this year's pilgrimage will be postpone for one week, until the afternoon of Saturday 20th May: more details will follow nearer the day. Our shrine is remarkable in possessing a specific Plenary Indulgence for pilgrims who visit and pray for Peace. Please make a note of the date and do you best to join in prayer to Our Lady at this time of heightened international tensions.

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 any 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

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, thank you 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.

Meet on Saturday mornings in the meeting room.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

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

You can still sign up for the Diocesan Lent Retreat "Renewed in Hope" 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

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> to learn more about the day 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

March Draw winners; 1st Prize No 118 J Stephens £50. 2nd Prize: No 103 M Gaydon £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. 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

RADIO MARIA, ENGLAND— Catholic Radio Station

24hr broadcast, available on DAB+ radio in Greater London (Radio Maria England), the Radio Maria Play app, www.radiomariaengland.uk

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.

'EASYFUNDRAISING' - SHOP ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR FREE! Over 600 brands offer donations
To find out more, Visit www.easyfundraising.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.

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 about us, please contact Les Bober, Membership Officer on 07811 407386 or Steve Lewis, Secretary, on 07305 360305.

PARISH FINANCES

Please see the attachment to this week's newsletter for an overview of our Parish Finances and accounts.

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at £36,881.68.

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

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 RCASHartley. Acc 34363181 Sort code 60-06-33.** If you use the parish Gift Aid scheme, *please* do note your GA number with your donation. Or via our Justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/St-Francis-de-Sales-Hartley

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 26th March 2023

Envelopes: £41.00 Loose Plate: £8.55

Standing Order: £457.50 Contactless: £20.00

2nd Collection Altar Flowers: £38.10

Thankyou for your contributions

**Our 2nd Collection this weekend, 2nd April:
URGENT REPAIRS TO FLAT ROOF IN CHURCH**

On GOOD FRIDAY, 7th April, there will be a National Collection for the upkeep of Holy Places connected with our Lord's passion-centres of veneration and pilgrimage- and to help maintain Christian schooling in the area.

EASTER OFFERING TO THE PARISH PRIEST

Our Offertory Collection 8th/9th April is our Easter Offering gift to the parish priest. Donations can be placed in the Easter Envelopes which are on the table in the church porch. If you donate by Standing Order, you may use online banking and donate directly to the parish bank account Nat West RCAOSHartley 34143580 Sort Code 60-06-33, reference 'Easter Offering'.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation, likewise, if you are on the parish scheme, please note your Gift Aid number against any donation. **Thankyou for your anticipated kindness and 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, please consider setting up a Monthly Bank Standing Order. This is most helpful to the parish for budgeting and planning projects for the future.

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

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.

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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