



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

Parish Newsletter 30th April 2023

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

StFrancisDeSalesHartley

sfdhartley **sfdhartley**

<https://tinyurl.com/vc7w838m>



This parish is served by the Spiritans

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - World day of Prayer for Vocations Parish Mass Book page 262

REFLECTION ON GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Beloved in Christ, today, the 4th Sunday of Easter known as Good Shepherd Sunday, the image of the shepherd is associated with Jesus as presented to us by John the Evangelist. He presents Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In reflecting on this we can perfectly understand the kind of relationship John is referring to and the relationship that existed between Jesus and His followers, disciples. It is a relationship based on tenderness, understanding, mutual knowledge, dependence, and love. In the Old Testament, the relationship of God with His people of Israel is compared to that between a shepherd and sheep. The prophet Isaiah said God is like "a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms" and again, God told Ezekiel, 'I myself will pasture my sheep ... I shall be a true shepherd to them.' In the New Testament, the concept of God as a shepherd is fulfilled in the person of Jesus. He calls His sheep individually by their names as He did to Peter, Andrew, James, and John, and they followed him because they heard a voice that sounded like the Saviour's voice.

Jesus is also the gate of the sheepfold as, through him, the sheep are sure of finding pasture. It is through Jesus Christ that the people of God, called by name and responding to his voice, enter into the pastures of eternal life. He is our Shepherd as the Palmist says, "there is nothing I shall want" and even though we should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would we fear.

Beloved in Christ, a friend of mine told me that he knows someone who has given up the faith of being a Christian due to COVID-19, because he has lost his relative. It seems to him that God isn't his Good Shepherd any longer, God isn't saving us with His crook and staff as it is stated. Many lose their faith when dreadful unprecedented events happen to them in their life. They feel that the Good Shepherd has abandoned His flock. Difficult times in our lives encouraged all of us to become good shepherds nowadays. How amazing that we all, one way or another, have become so much supportive of humanity. It shows that there many good shepherds out there, in this world.

The true Christian is also a shepherd, not merely a sheep. He is one who cares for the good of others as Christ did. We see in the Gospels that although Jesus and the Apostles needed rest, they continued to care for the people. ➔

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 29th April

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int. Repose of the soul of Jonathan Regan

Sunday 30th April

8:30am Int. People of the Parish

10:15am

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 2nd May

St. Athanasius, Bishop
Mass 9:30am

Wed 3rd May

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
Mass 9:30am

Thursday 4th May

The English Martyrs
Mass 9:30am

Friday 5th May

Mass 9:30am
Int. King Charles III

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 tend to grow tired and complain about having to do more than our share for the good of others. Always a smaller percentage of people have to shoulder the extra work that the larger percentage neglect to do. If you feel over-burdened, you are in good company. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, was heavily burdened, too. Jesus cared when others didn't during His time and paid the price. He died for us all.

Dear friends in Christ, Jesus bore the marks of Good Shepherd, the marks of our violent world on His body. He didn't hide his wounds, nor was He bitter about them. Those wounds were an expression of love, solidarity, compassion, concern, and so they had a meaning. They were the mortal wounds the Good Shepherd picked up in caring for His sheep. His wounds help us to recognise our own wounds. **The sacred, the precious wounds of Jesus are a source of consolation, courage, and hope to us, and truly, by his wounds we are healed. Love triumphs over the disfigurements, the wounds, and the scars of life.**

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.

TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK – 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:14, 36-41 God has made him both Lord and Christ.

PSALM RESPONSE: *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want*

1 Peter 2: 20-25 You have come back to the shepherd of your souls

John 10: 1-10 I am the gate of the sheepfold

Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK - 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6:1-7 They elected seven men full of the Holy Spirit

PSALM RES May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

1 Peter 2: 4-9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

John 14: 1-12 I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

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

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR AT OUR LADY OF HARTLEY SCHOOL Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership (KCSP) The role of a Foundation Governor is to contribute to the work of governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children in the school, and to ensure the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well. If you would be willing to fill this role, please speak to Fr Alphonsus and email the school office for further information: Julia.Gemmell@our-lady-hartley.kcsp.org.uk

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF HARTLEY SHRINE SATURDAY 20th MAY 3.30pm.

Afternoon pilgrimage, for the intention of "Peace among the countries of Europe", and ending in time for people to join the 5.30pm parish Mass. Volunteers are needed to read prayers and lead decades of the Rosary - please let Phil Kerton know if you can assist, or look for a sign-up list in the church entrance. More details to follow next week.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

Membership for 200 club is open, you will find the necessary information and forms in the church porch or on the parish website. **Our April Draw will place this Sunday, 30th April, after 8.30am Mass.** Please speak Tina Shirley or Kate Whittaker for any further assistance you may need. Thankyou

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH FETE 2023

As you know, we will be having our Annual Parish Fete on **Saturday 10th June 2023 between 12 noon and 4pm** and as this is your Parish and your Fete, this weekend sees the start of you all being encouraged to put your names forward for required roles.

We need as many of you as possible to get involved to make it a very successful day.

We plan to have many Stalls and Events on the day for all ages, to make sure the Fete is a fun day out and a great opportunity to all get together.

There are many different ways you can assist:

- If you have run a Stall in previous Fetes and wish to do again, please let us know.
- Please volunteer to run a Stall. This includes Parish Groups and the Youth Group.
- We are open for any suggestions on ideas for new Stalls.
- We need Volunteers for assisting with the setting up of the field on the day and clearing away afterwards.
- We need 25 people and addresses to display the very generously donated Advertising Boards from the local Estate Agent.
- Start preparing donations for the various Stalls. For example, we need Bakers to donate Cakes, for all Green Fingers to donate Plants, people to donate spare Books and of course, Bottles are needed for the Bottle Stall. Please do not donate electrical items for the White Elephant Stall.
- There will be a Grand Draw on the Day. Prizes are still needed so please donate or ask Local Businesses to help.

Please also:

- Continue to inform family and as many friends as possible about the Fete.
- When the Posters advertising the Fete are produced, please take and display them.
- Please encourage Businesses to advertise and/or suggest the Businesses and Tradesman you use, for contacting. We will need the Advertisements as soon as possible.
- Please provide any assistance you can with the Social Media Campaign.

- When the Grand Draw Tickets have been printed, please take them home and sell them to your friends and family.
- We will inform you all, nearer the date, when to bring your donations to the Meeting Room.

As you all know, the Fete is a very important event for the Parish. It reaches out to all our parishioners, neighbours and friends, and it also provides a large proportion of our parish income, without which, we would be unable to finance ourselves.

Anything else you can think of for the Fete, please let us know by e-mail (hartley@rcaos.org.uk) and obviously we ask you all to continue praying for a successful day and great weather. Thankyou.

CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES

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 the time when Children's Liturgy is taking place; with our apologies for any inconvenience, thankyou for your consideration in this matter.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 2023

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

CONFIRMATION 2023 – Sunday 11th June 2023

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) 2024.

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

RECEIVING COMMUNION

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

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

DIOCESAN NOTICES

'PRIEST TRAINING FUND' SECOND COLLECTION

Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. It costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. **We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thankyou!**

- Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF
- Telephone- weekdays 9am–5pm: 0207960 2504
- Cash/Cheque - please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes
- Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera



CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III– 6th MAY 2023

Please take home a 'Prayers for the King' leaflet

Mass for His Majesty the King, to mark his Coronation, will be celebrated throughout the Archdiocese on Friday 5th May. To assist those celebrating the Coronation, the Archbishop has granted a dispensation from Friday Abstinence on Friday 5th May.

OTHER NOTICES

AYLESFORD PRIORY, SATURDAY 14th MAY 2023 **Missionaries of Charity and co-workers pilgrimage** **10am-4pm, Mass at 12 noon.**

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta said that *we can do ordinary things with extraordinary love*. The Missionaries of Charity Sisters would welcome anyone to share in this most wonderful day. If you would like to learn more, Please call Ed Sexton 07947570266 or email Ed.sexton@hotmail.com

'EASYFUNDRAISING' - DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

Please use [easyfundraising](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) 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. **It's easy and FREE! You can get started by visiting www.easyfundraising.co.uk Thankyou**

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 23rd April 2023

Envelopes: £38.50 Loose Plate: £35.90

Contactless: £40.00 Online banking: £471.00

2nd Collection St George's Cathedral: £56.10

Thatch Fund: £51.50

Thank you for your contributions to the parish

**Our 2nd Collection this weekend, 30th April:
Archdiocese Collection for Priest Training Fund.**

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at £38,199.58 of the revised target set at £55,000.00

Please deposit your £1 in the Thatch Fund Box at the back of the church OR use the Contactless machine in the porch. You can also set up a £4 monthly/ £52 annual, Bank 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 (on the shelf in the church porch or from the website www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk) or if you already use the parish Gift Aid scheme, *please* note your GA number against any donation. Thankyou
You can also donate via our Justgiving page 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 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 financially are:

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

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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