



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

**Parish Newsletter**

**9th April 2023**

**White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW**

**Tel: 01474705361 Email [hartley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.churchservices.tvhartley)**



This parish is served by the Spiritans

## **EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Parish Mass Book page 251**

### **REFLECTION ON THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**The Resurrection:** The first Glorious Mystery of the Holy Rosary in the life of Christ and His Blessed Mother gives pride of place to 'The Resurrection'. "On Easter morning, the disciples' hearts leap with inexpressible joy to find their Lord - alive again" (Matthew 28:8). And as we contemplate the Resurrection of the Lord, poor sinners that we are, we marvel to discover that the Passover of the Lord touches us. It changes everything in our lives. This day is a day of celebration and rejoicing! By his rising, Christ has opened to us the treasures of salvation and grace.

The Father's plan has been fulfilled. The Son sent by God came to save all humanity from sin and has bestowed upon them, through grace, the gift of becoming children of God. And so we are! The death of Jesus on the cross has washed us and set us free from all sin. His Resurrection has won for us adoption as his brothers and sisters. It is true and such is our faith that from now on, through the grace of the Resurrection, we participate in the life of the Only Begotten Son. We are all children of the same Father, sharing our love for one another in communion with the Holy Spirit! Alleluia!

**Spectacle of vigilance:** On Holy Saturday, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate and said to him, "Sir, we remember that when that impostor was still alive, he said, "After three days I will rise again". Therefore, have his tomb secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal the body, and say to the people: He is risen from the dead. That would be a deception worse than the first." Pilate answered them, "You have soldiers, go and take all the necessary precautions". So, they went to the tomb and secured it, sealing the stone, placing the tomb under guard (Matthew 27:63-65). The most astounding fact about this spectacle of vigilance over the dead is that the enemies of Christ expected the Resurrection, but His friends did not. In three great scenes of the Resurrection drama, we find a note of sadness and unbelief.

Mary of Magdala comes to the grave early in the morning with spices, not to greet the risen Saviour but to anoint a dead body. What is more tragic is that she is weeping.

### **THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

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

**Sat 10.00am-6.30pm**

**Sun 7.45am-12noon**

### **EASTER TRIDUUM**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

**6th April 7.30pm**

#### **Good Friday**

**7th April 3.00pm**

#### **Easter Vigil Saturday**

**8th April 7.30pm**

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

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

#### **Sunday 9th April**

**8.30am** Int People of the Parish

**10.15am** Int. Vincent Regan, Anniversary, R.I.P.

### **WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tuesday 11th April**

**NO MASS**

**Wed 12th April**

**9.30am**

**Thursday 13th April**

**9.30am**

**Friday 14th April**

**9.30am**

### **CONFESSIONS**

**Wed-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)**

When she finds the tomb empty, instead of believing in the Resurrection, she says, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they have put him" (John 20:13).

### **The Truth of Easter**

Yet, such is the truth of Easter Sunday; the Resurrection of the dead, the triumph of the defeated, the finding of the lost; the springtime of the earth, the waking of life, the trumpet of Resurrection blowing over the land of the living. Our Lord's Incarnation was announced to a virgin, Mary. But his Resurrection was announced to a converted sinner, Mary of Magdala. Only purity could welcome the all-holy Son of God into the world, and hence, Mary Immaculate met Him at the door of earth in the city of Bethlehem. But only a repentant sinner, who had herself risen from the grave of the sin to the newness of life in God, could fittingly understand the triumph over sin.

Hence, not to the Blessed Virgin Mary but to Mary of Magdala are the glad tidings of the Resurrection first announced. In this contrast is hidden the great truth of Easter day; the Resurrection is for sinners. It is the final and absolute proof that our Lord has come "not to call the just, but sinners." To the honour of womanhood, it must forever be said, a woman was closest to the cross on Good Friday and first at the tomb on Easter morning.

### **How can we believe in a Resurrection?**

The evidence, nevertheless, is there and has withstood recurring criticisms and even modern research. Saint John (1 John 5:6-9) characterises the three complementary aspects of the Christian experience, which are first seen in Jesus himself:

**Water:** Water is the symbol of cleanliness and of new life

**Blood:** The blood of the sacrifice, the painful atonement for sin, the blood of martyrs

**Spirit:** The uncontainable power that animates Christ's witnesses; the amazing creativity of the people and institutions that are rooted in faith.

These three witnesses to Jesus Christ and they also characterise Christian salvation. We can easily see that they correspond to the three Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Do not underestimate the step you took in accepting Jesus Christ. Explore and look for the riches which are meant for you, and which are found in "Him who loves us" (Revelation 1:5).

**Peace be with you! Alleluia!**

### **THE REGINA CAELI**

**Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.**

**For he, whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.**

**Has risen as he said, alleluia.**

**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 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.*

### **TEXTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MASS**

#### **SECOND 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>**

#### **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

### **SEEKING SANCTUARY**

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

### **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.

## 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 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 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.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 2023 PROGRAMME**

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

### **CONFIRMATION 2023**

Will take place on Sunday 11th June, 2023.

### **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 2023.**

Please pray for our candidates who are being received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday.

## 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> to learn more about the day or contact [youth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.

#### 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](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)

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. Contact Les Bober, Membership Officer 07811 407386 or Steve Lewis, Secretary, 07305 360305.

### THATCH FUND

**Our funding stands at £36,935.68**

**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 RCAS Hartley. Acc no 34363181 Sort code 60-06-33.** If you are a UK tax payer, please submit a gift aid declaration form 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](http://www.justgiving.com/St-Francis-de-Sales-Hartley).

## OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 2nd April 2023

**Envelopes: £87.00 Loose Plate: £38.50**

**Standing Order: £830.50 Contactless: £15.00**

**2nd Collection Repairs: £119.50**

**Thatch Fund: £74.00**

*Thankyou for your contributions*

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION 7th April: National Collection for the Holy Places of Palestine.**

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION, 9th April:

#### EASTER OFFERING TO THE PARISH PRIEST

**Our Offertory Collection 8th/9th April** is our personal 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, 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, 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 already done so, please consider setting up a Monthly Bank Standing Order. This is most helpful to the parish for budgeting and planning any future projects.

**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](http://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 Find out how to sign up and start raising funds while you shop, at [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)

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.

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