



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

**Parish Newsletter** 14th May 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](http://www.churchservices.tvhartley)



This parish is served by the Spiritans

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Parish Mass Book page 268

### REFLECTION ON THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

#### Commission, Power, and Promise

The Ascension of Jesus is a significant event in the Christian faith. As he ascended into heaven, his disciples watched in awe, wondering what would come next. Jesus left them with a command to be his witnesses, spreading the message of salvation to all around them. This command was not only for the disciples but for all believers throughout history, including us today.

The Holy Spirit plays a central role in the Christian faith, empowering and guiding every believer. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples, and he continues to guide and empower us today. The Holy Spirit is not limited to personal transformation, but also equips us to carry out God's mission in the world. It gives us the strength, wisdom, and gifts we need to serve others, proclaim the gospel message, and work for justice and peace.

The promise of Christ's return is a central aspect of the Christian belief, bringing hope and joy to believers. Throughout the New Testament, Christ's return is described as a glorious event that will bring about the final judgment and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom. As believers, we eagerly anticipate Christ's return, knowing that our actions and choices in this life impact our eternal destiny.

In summary, the readings for the Ascension of the Lord Year A remind us of our commission to be witnesses of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and the promise of Christ's return. May we always be faithful to this commission, living in the power of the Holy Spirit and eagerly anticipating the return of our Lord and Saviour.

#### Answering the Call to be Disciple Makers

We believe that Jesus is with us always, even though he has ascended into heaven. This is a comforting thought that reminds us of his continued presence and love for us. The Gospel reading from Matthew also reminds us of our responsibility to make disciples. This task may seem daunting, but Jesus has given us the tools and the example to follow in his footsteps.

### THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

**Sat** 10:00am-6:30pm

**Sun** 7:45am-12noon

#### SUNDAY MASS

**Saturday 13th May**

**5:30pm** Vigil Mass

**Sunday 14th May**

**8:30am** Int. People of the Parish

**10:15am**

#### WEEKDAY MASS

**Tuesday 16th May**

St. Simon Stock, Priest  
**9:30am**

**Wed 17th May**

**9:30am**

**Thursday 18th May**

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**9:30am**

**7.30pm**

**Friday 19th May**

**9:30am**

#### 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](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)

To be a disciple maker is more than just quoting Scripture or sharing knowledge about the faith. It involves a deep love for others that is willing to sacrifice for their well-being. Jesus showed us this love by giving up his life on the cross for our salvation. We are called to follow his example by putting the needs of others before our own desires.

Making disciples requires us to step out of our comfort zones and engage with those who may have different beliefs or backgrounds. It is an act of love that seeks to bring others closer to God and share the joy of the Gospel with them. This is not always an easy task, but it is one that is filled with grace and blessings.

The readings for the Ascension of the Lord Year A call us to take on the job title of "Disciple Maker" with humility and faith. We are not alone in this task, as the Holy Spirit guides us and empowers us to share the message of Christ with others. Through prayer, study, and living out our faith in our daily lives, we can become effective disciple makers and fulfil the mission that Jesus gave us.

**NB There will be 2 Masses on Thursday 18th for The Ascension Holy Day: 9.30am and at 7.30pm**

### 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 - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 8:5-8, 14-17** They laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit

**Psalms Res Cry out with joy to God all the earth**

**1 Peter 3: 15-18** In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

**John 14: 15-21** I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate

**Communion Antiphon** *If you love me, keep my commands, says the Lord, and I will ask the father and he will send you another Paraclete to abide with you forever.*

### **TEXTS FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

#### **THURSDAY 18th MAY - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Acts 1: 1-11** He was lifted up while they looked on

**Psalms Res God goes up with shouts of joy, the Lord goes up with trumpet blast**

**Ephesians 1: 17-23** He made him sit at his right hand in heaven

**Matthew 28: 16-20** All authority, in heaven and earth has been given to me.

**Communion Antiphon** *Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.*

### **TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK - 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 1: 12-14** All joined in continuous prayer

**PSALMS RES I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living**

**1 Peter 4: 13-16** It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ

**John 17: 1-11** Father, glorify your Son.

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

### **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.*

### **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.

### **PARISH NOTICES**

#### **ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF HARTLEY SHRINE, SATURDAY 20th MAY 3.30pm – 5.30pm**

Please try to attend, even if only for part of the time, to give honour to Mary in her month of May. Volunteers are needed to read prayers or lead a decade of the rosary. Let Phil Kerton know if you can take a turn, or look out in the porch for a volunteer list to sign.

## **ST FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH FETE 2023**

In Four Weeks' time, we will be having our Annual Parish Fete on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 between 12 noon and 4pm.

Not only is the Fete great fun and suitable for all ages, it is a very important event in the Parish, both socially and financially, and therefore **we need everyone to pull together to make this a Success.**

**The Clock is ticking and therefore, please:**

- Keep mentioning the Fete and the Date to people
- If you haven't already, please take and display a Fete Poster.
- If you know of any Businesses who would like to Advertise, there is space still available but we need to know soon. We will also need the Programmes delivered.
- When the Tickets are produced, please take and sell them.

**If you haven't already put your name forward, there are many ways you can get involved:**

- We still need volunteers to **run Stalls**, so we encourage as many of you, previous and New Stall Holders, the Youth and Parish Groups to get involved. Any new Suggestions on Stalls are welcome.
- You can volunteer for **help with Setting up the field** on the day and **Clearing away** afterwards.
- We still need a few more people to **display the very generously donated Advertising Boards** from the Local Estate Agent.
- **Prizes are still needed for the Grand Draw**, which you and Local Businesses can donate.
- **Prepare Donations for the various Stalls**, for example - Cakes, Plants, Books, Bottles, Toiletries, Jewellery, Items for the White Elephant Stall (non - electrical Items only) and World Food for the World Food Stall.

*We will inform you, shortly, when to bring your Donations to the Meeting Room.*

**Your prayers for a successful day and for good weather are still needed and if you need to contact us about the Fete, please use the Parish E-Mail Address – [hartley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hartley@rcaos.org.uk). Thank you**

### **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. All

Sacramental programmes 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**

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.

### **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 confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our 4 young parishioners. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers.

### **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 2024.**

If you are interested in joining the next RCIA program, speak to Fr Alphonsus about enrolment.

### **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

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

### **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 onto 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 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'.

### 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 the meeting room. Contact: Laura Bourne through the parish office. All children are encouraged to join the Youth Group.

#### 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)

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. Contact Les Bober on 07811 407386 or Steve Lewis, on 07305 360305

#### 'EASYFUNDRAISING' - DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

Please use [easyfundraising](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) when you shop online!

Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise donations for us no matter what you're buying. **It's easy & FREE!** Visit [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) Thankyou

**Are you a UK Taxpayer? Please consider joining the Parish Gift-Aid Scheme.** Information and Forms are 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.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 7th May 2023

Envelopes: £42.00 Loose Plate: £34.60

Contactless: £25.00 Online banking: £222.50

2nd Collection Grounds Maintenance: £40.00

Thatch Fund: £39.00

*Thank you for your contributions to the parish*

**Our 2nd Collection this weekend, 14th May: Grounds Maintenance at White Friars**

### THATCH FUND

**Our funding stands at £38,333.43 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](http://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](http://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:**

- (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 the 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 *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](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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