



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

Parish Newsletter 28th May 2023

White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW

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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

PENTECOST SUNDAY Parish Mass Book page 288

REFLECTION ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the season of Easter reaches its final climax. This Sunday we celebrate and experience the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the whole church and on all those who call themselves disciples and followers of the risen Lord.

Last Sunday when we celebrated the Ascension of Jesus, He promised his followers that He would send them the Holy Spirit and that they would be filled with power from high. Theirs and our waiting is over. Today with the whole church we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. This is not something that happened a long time ago to other people. It is happening today, here and now. Today each of us is filled with and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

The first followers of Jesus weren't strong, courageous or even very faithful. They betrayed Jesus. They denied and deserted him when he needed them the most. After his death they hid themselves away in fear. They had lost all heart and hope.

Then the strangest thing happens to them. The house shakes with the sound of a mighty wind and the sight of fire! These frightened and frail men and women are transformed. Through the Holy Spirit, they are given new hope, new heart and new purpose. Their fear and silence is replaced by courage and conviction. They leave their hiding place and make their way into the streets and proclaim the good news of the resurrection. They become new people with a new message. At this very moment the missionary church is born.

We are no different than these ordinary men and women. Through our baptism and confirmation, each of us has been filled and anointed with the exact same Holy Spirit. Just as the first followers of his disciples proclaimed the good news about Jesus; we too are called to do the exact same today. Just as these men and women were transformed into energetic and outspoken witnesses of Jesus, so too must each of us today.

There is nothing gentle, mild or gentle about Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is powerful, life-changing and energetic. (continued overleaf)

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 27th May

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 28th May

8:30am

10:15am Int. People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 30th May

9:30am

Wed 31st May

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Feast

9:30am

Thursday 1st June

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, Feast.

9:30am

Friday 2nd June

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 (**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

The Holy Spirit challenges us and calls us to change. Oscar Romero, the Latin American Bishop who was murdered in 1978 said, 'The Spirit makes all things new; we are the ones who grow old and want to keep everything to our aged way of doing things... the Spirit is never old, the Spirit is always young.'

As we celebrate the birth of the missionary church, we pray that each of us will be refreshed and renewed by the Holy Spirit. May we do what Pope Francis asks of each of us, 'Go out again and again, without hesitation without fear and proclaim this joy which is for all people...'

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST and THE SPIRITANS.

'Cor unam et Anima una' - one heart and one soul

Pentecost is a very important feast for the Spiritans, previously known as The Holy Ghost Fathers. Our 2nd Collection this weekend 27/28th May will go towards supporting the mission of the Spiritans, that is, the formation and training of students for the priesthood and religious life. Thank you in advance for your support and kindness.

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– PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

Psalms Res *Lord send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.*

1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13 In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body

Sequence *Holy Spirit, Lord of light...*

John 20: 19-23 As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

Communion Antiphon *They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Exodus 34: 4-6, 8-9 Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion

Psalms Res *To You, glory and praise for evermore*

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

John 3: 16-18 God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved

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

UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH/PRESBYTERY GROUNDS

Please speak with Fr Alphonsus if you would be willing to help for a couple of hours on a fortnightly rota basis with others in keeping the grounds around the church and presbytery tidy. Thankyou.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB DRAW

This month's Draw will take place on Sunday 28th May after the 8.30am Mass. Membership for the 200 Club is open – you will find information and forms in the porch area of the church or on the parish website.

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the latest information and school news, visit us at www.ourladyhartley.kent.sch.uk

'EASYFUNDRAISING' - DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

Please use [easyfundraising](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) when you shop online! Over 7,000 brands will give back small donations, so you can raise funds for us no matter what you're buying. **It is easy & FREE to sign up today!** Visit www.easyfundraising.co.uk Thankyou

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH FETE

A fortnight to go until our Annual Parish Fete on Saturday 10th June 2023, between 12noon - 4pm

Please take and display a Fete Poster and invite your family, friends, neighbours and members of the local community to join us on this great and very important day.

We have fantastic Stalls and great attractions such as a Unicorn, Owls, Irish Dancing, Singing, and a new addition to the day – a Rodeo Bull, which we hope you will all enjoy, particularly our youth.

The day is fast approaching and there are still various things you can do:

- **Advertising.** If you know of any Businesses who would like to Advertise, please let us know.
- **Keep Donating.** Donations are coming in slowly but more are needed for the Book Stall, Bottle Stall, Toiletries & Jewellery Stall and for the White Elephant Stall (Non-Electrical only) All items can be left in the Meeting Room where it is clearly marked.
- **Prepare.** You can also start preparing delicious Cakes, World Food and Plants - including Fruit and Vegetable Plants.
- **Before and After the Fete.** Any further assistance to help Set up and Clear away will be appreciated.
- **Volunteers.** A number of Stalls still need extra volunteers to help on the day. We are still looking for people to assist particularly on the Bottle Stall, Tea and Coffee Stall, White Elephant Stall and Candy Floss Stall.
- The Toy Stall, Crack the Safe, Lucky Dip/Lucky Duck Stalls and World Food Stall need further volunteers to help on the day.
- **Grand Draw.** We have received fantastic Prizes for the Grand Draw but if you have any further donations or know of any Local Businesses who would be interested in donating, please let us know.
- **Pray.** We still need your prayers for a great day and good weather.

Next weekend, the Programmes and Grand Draw Tickets will arrive and therefore please help with distributing them and selling them.

If you need to contact us about the Fete, please use the parish E-mail: hartley@rcaos.org.uk

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

During term time only. 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 when Children's Liturgy takes place.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 2023

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

The children will receive their First Holy Communion at Mass on Saturday 17th and Saturday 24th June. Let us keep these young children and their families in our prayers as they prepare for their special day.

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 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 then register on the Parish Database.** Forms are available in the porch, or on the parish website, to fill in and return. Please consider how you can support the parish with your time, talents & resources and fill in a 'Sharing my Time & Talents' leaflets, which are in the porch.

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

All school aged children are welcome members of the Parish Youth Group. Adult and Young Leaders meet regularly. Contact: Laura Bourne via 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)

Second Wednesday of the month in the church meeting room at 2:00pm. 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

Are you a UK Taxpayer? Please consider joining the Parish Gift-Aid Scheme. Information can be found on the parish website OR on the shelf in the church porch. Please contact the parish office for any further help.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 21st May 2023

Envelopes: £43.50 Loose Plate: £42.40

Contactless: £25.00 Online banking: £556.50

2nd Collection Catholic Comm Network: £36.00

Thatch Fund: £141.60

Thank you for your contributions to the parish

Our 2nd Collection this weekend is for The Spiritans (see the notice inside the newsletter)

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at **£38,479.00 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:

- (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. **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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