



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

**Parish Newsletter 7th May 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

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Parish Mass Book page 265**

### **REFLECTION ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Are you saved? Hopefully the answer to this is "Yes" in three ways: You were saved by grace through Baptism, you continue to be saved by God's grace and mercy as you freely choose to follow Him, and you hope to be saved in your final hour so as to enter the glories of Heaven. Anything we accomplish in life means nothing if we cannot answer "Yes" in this threefold way.

It's also important to be reminded of how we are saved. How is it that we were, are and hope to receive the precious gift of salvation? The answer is simple: Through the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our one and only Way to the Father. There is no other way we obtain salvation than through Him.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that we achieve salvation by simply being "good." In other words, do your good works save you? The proper answer is both "Yes" and "No." It is "Yes" only in the sense that our good works are a necessary part of union with Christ. Without Him we can do nothing good. But if we have accepted Christ into our life and, thus, if we are on the road to salvation, then good works will be necessarily present in our life. But the answer is also "No" in the sense that Jesus and Jesus alone is the only Saviour. We cannot save ourselves no matter how hard we try to be good.

This discussion is especially familiar among our evangelical Christian brothers and sisters. But it's a conversation we should be quite familiar with also. At the heart of this conversation is the Person of Jesus Christ. He and He alone must be the central focus of our lives and we must see Him as the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the only Way to Heaven, He is the fullness of the Truth we must believe, and He is the Life that we are called to live and is the source of this new life of Grace.

Reflect, today, upon the central and singular role of Jesus in your life. Without Him you are nothing, but with Him you obtain the life of perfect fulfilment. Choose Him in a very personal and concrete way this day as your Lord and Saviour. Humbly admit that you are nothing without Him and let Him into your life so that He can offer you to His loving Father in Heaven. ➔

### **THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

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

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

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

### **SUNDAY MASS**

**Saturday 6th May**

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

Int. People of the Parish

**Sunday 7th May**

**8:30am**

**10:15am**

### **WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tuesday 9th May**

**9:30am** Int. Survivors of Sexual Abuse

**Wed 10th May**

**9:30am** Int. Marie Dunne, Anniversary, R.I.P.

**Thursday 11th May**

**9:30am** Int. Verna Rowland R.I.P.

**Friday 12th May**

**9:30am**

Int. Rianna Deol R.I.P.

### **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)**

*My Lord and my Saviour, I say "Yes" to You this day and accept You into my life as my Lord and Saviour. I thank You for the gift of Baptism which began my life of grace and I renew my choice to follow You, this day, so that You may enter more fully into my life. As You enter into my life, please offer me to the Father in Heaven. May all my actions be directed by You so that I may be an eternal offering with You, dear Jesus. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### **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 – 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

**Communion Antiphon:** I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

### **TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

**PSALM 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

**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.*

### **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 200 CLUB**

April Draw Winners 1st Prize: No 120 £50 Hana Sexton. 2nd Prize: No 127 £25 Frank McConnell  
200 Club Membership is open. Information can be found in the church porch or on the parish website

#### **The CWC - Catholic Welcome Circle**

Will meet on Wednesday 10th May in the Meeting Room to commence at 2pm. Please join us for a friendly couple of hours socialising and enjoy a cup of tea, cake and biscuits. All welcome.

#### **PARISH FETE SATURDAY 10th JUNE 12 - 4pm**

The Fete is a very important event for the parish, it reaches out to all parishioners, friends and family, & provides a large proportion of our parish income  
**We need as many volunteers as possible to make it a successful day. There are many ways to assist:**

- Volunteer to help run a Stall, this includes all Parish Groups. If you have any suggestions on new Stalls, please let us know.
- Volunteer to help with setting up of the field on the day and clearing away afterwards.
- Volunteer to display an Advertising board from the local Estate Agent outside your house.
- Prepare donations for the various Stalls: we need **Cakes, Plants, Books, Bottles**, plus items for the **White Elephant Stall. (non-electrical goods only)**

*We will inform you all, nearer the date, when to bring your donations to the Meeting Room.*

- Donate a prize for the Grand Draw.
- Display a Fete Poster

**Please also:**

- Encourage Businesses/Tradesmen to advertise or suggest those you use, for contacting. We will need the advertisements as soon as possible.
- Assist with the Social Media Campaign.
- Take home Grand Draw Tickets when they have been printed and sell them to your friends & family.

**Anything else you can think of for the Fete, please e-mail ([hartley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hartley@rcaos.org.uk)) and please continue to pray for a successful day and for great weather.**

### **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.

### **DIOCESAN NOTICES**

Have you ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60 minute webinar on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm** entitled ***The Good Shepherd Calls*** where different presenters will share their experiences about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Please register for this event, using the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdOuprDMtH9wKUQ777ddSSjLBucMtsONt>

### **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)

#### **FOUNDATION GOVERNOR AT OUR LADY OF**

**HARTLEY SCHOOL** The role of a Foundation Governor is to contribute to the work of the 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 details:

**[Julia.Gemmell@our-lady-hartley.kcsp.org.uk](mailto:Julia.Gemmell@our-lady-hartley.kcsp.org.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'.



## OTHER NOTICES

### **AYLESFORD PRIORY, SATURDAY 14th MAY 2023**

Missionaries of Charity and co-workers pilgrimage 10am-4pm, Mass at 12 noon. Please contact Ed Sexton 07947570266 or email [Ed.sexton@hotmail.com](mailto:Ed.sexton@hotmail.com)

## 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, Membership Officer on 07811 407386 or Steve Lewis, on 07305 360305

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

Please use **easyfundraising** 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

## OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 30th April 2023

**Envelopes: £48.00 Loose Plate: £64.10**

**Contactless: £30.00 Online banking: £1,065.00**

**2nd Collection Priests training Fund: £103.00**

**Thatch Fund: £94.85**

*Thank you for your contributions to the parish*

**Our 2nd Collection this weekend, 7th May:  
Grounds Maintenance work at White Friars.**

## THATCH FUND

**Our funding stands at £38,294.43 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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