



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

Parish Newsletter

11th June 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

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Parish Mass Book page 83

REFLECTION ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

"Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." [Mark 14:22a-24](#)

Happy Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, our Lord and God! What a Gift we celebrate today!

The Eucharist is everything. It's all things, the fullness of life, eternal salvation, mercy, grace, happiness, etc. Why is the Eucharist all this and so much more? Simply put, the Eucharist IS God. Period. Therefore, the Eucharist is all that God is.

In his beautiful traditional hymn, "Adoro te Devote," St. Thomas Aquinas writes, "I devoutly adore You, O hidden Deity, truly hidden beneath these appearances. My whole heart submits to You, and in contemplating You, it surrenders itself completely. Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgment of You, but hearing suffices firmly to believe..." What a glorious statement of faith in this wondrous gift.

This statement of faith reveals that when we worship before the Eucharist, we worship God Himself hidden under the appearance of bread and wine. Our senses are deceived. What we see, taste and feel do not reveal the reality before us. The Eucharist is God.

Throughout our lives, if we were raised Catholic, we were taught reverence for the Eucharist. But "reverence" is not enough. Most Catholics reverence the Eucharist, meaning, we genuflect, kneel, and treat the Sacred Host with respect. But it's important to ponder a question in your heart. Do you believe the Eucharist is God Almighty, the Savior of the world, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity? Do you believe deeply enough to have your heart moved with love and profound devotion every time you are before our divine Lord present before us under the veil of the Eucharist? When you kneel do you fall down prostrate in your heart, loving God with your whole being?

Perhaps this sounds like it's a bit excessive. Perhaps simple reverence and respect is enough for you. But it's not. →

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 10th June

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int. For the People of the Parish

Sunday 11th June

8:30am 10:15am Int.

Newly Confirmed

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 13th June

St. Anthony of Padua, Priest, Memorial

9:30am

Wed 14th June

9:30am

Thursday 15th June

9:30am

Friday 16th June

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

9:30am Int. David

Brennan R.I.P. 1st

Anniversary of Death

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

Since the Eucharist is God Almighty, we must see Him there with the eyes of faith in our soul. We must profoundly adore Him as the angels do in Heaven. We must cry out, **"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty."** We must be moved to the deepest of worship as we enter into His divine presence.

WELCOME TO BISHOP PAUL HENDRICKS

Bishop Paul will visit the parish this Sunday 11th June to celebrate the 10.15am Mass and to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on four of our young parishioners during Mass.

We sincerely thank Bishop Paul for coming and encourage parishioners to attend this Mass and support our young parishioners and their families.

PRAYER BEFORE MASS: THE ANGELUS

V/ The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

R/ And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

V/ Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V/ Behold the handmaid of the Lord

R/ Be it done unto me according to Thy Word.

Hail Mary, full of grace,...

V/ The Word was made flesh

R/ And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace...

V/ Pray for us, O holy Mother of God **R/** that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. **R/** Pour forth, we beseech Thee O Lord, Thy Grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may, by His passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK - CORPUS CHRISTI

Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16 He fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known

Psalms Res *O praise the Lord, Jerusalem*

1 Corinthians 10: 16-17 That there is only one loaf, means that, though there are many of us, we form one body.

Sequence: * *Behold the bread of angels, sent...*

John: 6, 51-58 My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Antiphon: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– ELEVENTH SUNDAY

Exodus 19: 2-6 I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

Psalms Res *We are his people, the sheep of his flock*

Romans 5: 6-11 Now that we have been reconciled by the death of his Son, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son.

Matthew 9:36-10:8 He summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out.

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

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.

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

CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE

CWC will meet at 2pm on WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE in the church meeting room for a couple of hours social interaction with tea and cake ALL WELCOME!

UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH/PRESBYTERY GROUNDS

Please speak with Fr Alphonsus if you would be willing to help for a couple of hours to keep the grounds around the church and presbytery tidy.

JUNE – MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The month of June is dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus. May he come into your life this month with special blessing for you. Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is Friday 16th June.

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 then please fill in a **'Sharing my Time & Talents'** leaflet, which are in the porch. Thankyou

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH FETE

The Fete has arrived.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Annual Parish Fete on Saturday 10th June 2023 between 12 noon and 4pm.

Donations

Thank you all for your very generous donations and if you still have any available **Bottles for the Bottle Stall, Toiletries and Jewellery, Toys, Games, Books and Non-Electrical Items, Plants including Fruit and Vegetable Plants, Cakes and World Food**, please donate for the various Stalls, up until the actual Fete.

The Grand Draw Tickets

We have many Fabulous Prizes in the Draw and we hope you have taken tickets and sold them to your Family, Friends, Neighbours and Local Community. All Money and Counterfoils can be returned up to and including the Fete, as **the Draw will take place at 3.45pm on Saturday 10th June 2023.**

Please keep inviting all your Friends, Family, Neighbours and Local Community. We hope you have enjoyed looking through the Programme and distributing the Programmes to everyone you can.

Volunteers

Any volunteer who is free before and after the Fete, would be encouraged to help Set up and Clear away.

Please keep praying for Good Weather.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable Fete Day and looking forward to seeing you all and hoping you enjoy the **fantastic Stalls and great Attractions** we have, especially the **Rodeo Bull, Bouncy Castle, Unicorn, Owls, Irish Dancing, Singing, the usual Stalls and Delicious Food and Drink.**

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

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, (CWL) WESTMINSTER BRANCH who will be visiting the parish on Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Hartley on Tuesday 13th June.

DONATION BOX FOR GRAVESEND FOODBANK

Non perishable items can be left in the Food Bank Box in the Meeting Room or in the porch Thankyou

'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/>

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

In school term time, on Sundays during 10.15am Mass. Please bring you child into the meeting room before the start of Mass. For Safeguarding purposes the meeting room will not be free for use when Children's Liturgy is taking place.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

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.

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 to plan events for our young parishioners. Any ideas? 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.

'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'.

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

Third Wednesday each month at 7:00pm in the church meeting room. We welcome any new members. 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 for further details.

'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

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 4th June 2023

Envelopes: £83.50 Loose Plate: £6.00

Contactless: £50.00 Online banking: £2,015.00

2nd Collection for Maintenance: £77.36

Thatch Fund: £53.05

Thank you for your contributions to the parish

2nd Collection this weekend 10th/11th June:

Altar Flowers and new plants for the Plant-box

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at £38,605.08 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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