



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

Parish Newsletter

18th June 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



This parish is served by the Spiritans

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Parish Mass Book page 91

Reflection on Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

A Sacred Vocation

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so, ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Mt 9:36-10:8

This line reveals an essential duty that we all have regarding the good of the Church. It reveals a call to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

It's interesting that Jesus set up the Church using ordinary men to act in His very name. Priests are sinners like everyone else, but Jesus calls them, nonetheless, to minister in a very sacred role of being shepherds. These two points are essential for us to understand.

First, Jesus calls sinners to the priesthood. This is not a harsh or critical statement, it's simply a statement of fact. All we have to do is to look at the first bishops, the Apostles, and we are immediately made aware of their weaknesses. Priests most certainly have a sacred calling to holiness and should strive to be saints. But we should not be surprised when they are not as saintly as Jesus was. This is all part of the permissive will of God; namely, that sinful men act in the very Person of Jesus the Son of God. Amazing.

Second, priests are called to be our shepherds and we should treat them as such. If we can humbly look beyond their weaknesses, we will come to realize that God does shepherd us through them. On account of their sacred ordination, the Holy Spirit is able to shepherd our souls to Heaven in a very direct and profound way through the priesthood. But sometimes it takes a humble sheep to actually see the shepherd in the priest.

Reflect, today, upon the great gift of the holy Priesthood. We must love and honour our priests, and especially pray for them and support them. We must also heed the command of our Lord to pray for more laborers in the vineyard. Our world is always in need of shepherds, and it is the duty of every member of the Church to pray that God raise up many priests for this sacred ministry.



THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 17th June

12noon First Holy Communion Mass

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 18th June

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

10:15am Int Wellbeing of the Assam family

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 20th June

St Alban, Protomartyr of Britain, Memorial

9:30am

Wed 21st June

St Aloysius Gonzaga, R. **9:30am**

Thursday 22nd June

Sts John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas Moore.

9:30am

Friday 23rd 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

Lord Jesus, our great High Priest, please do send many laborers into Your vineyard. Give those whom You call to serve in this sacred ministry the courage they need to say "Yes" to You and to embrace a life of great holiness. Please bless our Holy Father, the Pope, our bishops, pastors and all who serve within Your Church in a unique way. Help us, your people, to always show proper love and support to our shepherds. Jesus, I trust in You.

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– 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.

Communion Antiphon *There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– TWELFTH 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.

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

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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 for supporting those in need at this time.

'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 FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

Membership for 200 club is open, you will find the necessary information and forms in the church porch or on the parish website. Please speak with Tina Shirley or Kate Whittaker for any further assistance you may need. Thankyou

PARISH NOTICES

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH FETE 2023

Last Saturday we had our Parish Fete, and I am sure you will all agree it was a very successful day. We couldn't have asked for better weather – the rain and thunderstorms kept away.

Friends, family, neighbours and the local community all made the effort and got together to attend the day and to enjoy the very many attractions.

Our deepest appreciation and sincerest thanks goes out to all who assisted and were involved in preparing for the day and on the day itself, the people who worked behind the scenes, the very many volunteers who helped set up, everyone who ran Stalls and cleared away at the end of the day and who helped to make the Fete a fantastic event. Without all their help and assistance, the Fete would not have been the success it was.

We would like to thank Matthew Scott for opening the Fete; Our Lady of Hartley School for giving us the use of their field and facilities for the day; all the local companies who supported the event, advertised in the Fete Programme or sponsored stalls; all those who donated the fantastic prizes to the Grand Draw; the printers; Hartley Estates for donating the advertising boards - and the very many volunteers who gave up their Saturday to support the event and take part in the day.

We are sure you will all agree everyone had a fantastic time and not only did it bring the parish and the local community together in a fun way but also raised much needed funds to support our Parish Finances.

Currently, the takings prior to, and on the day of the Fete, amount to just over £7,000.00 banked - this includes Cash, Cheques, Contactless Machine, QR Codes, Grand Draw tickets, Online Donations, and all other Donations.

We are still working on the final figure which will take into account the total income received from Advertising and the total payment for any Fete Expenses, including the program printing – after which, the Final Figure will be published.

I am sure you will all agree this is a brilliant result so far. Once again, thank you to everyone who helped and supported all aspects of the Fete and we hope you all had a very enjoyable time.

The Fete Committee

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

Sunday 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

20 children will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th or 24th June. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers as they celebrate this special day in their Faith journey.

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our 4 young parishioners who were Confirmed by Bishop Paul Hendricks last Sunday. May the Lord continue to bless them.

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

This year's '**Day for Life**' on **18th June** focuses on post-abortion trauma and the impact of abortion primarily on women, but also men and others.

Voices of women who have had an abortion are often silent in Church and in society. This year's message for Day for Life is written by a woman and hopes to break this silence and offer opportunities for hope, healing and reconciliation.

A mandatory collection will take place in parishes over this weekend. The funds raised will support projects across the whole spectrum of life. **Please support this vital work in any way you feel able.** For more visit <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life>

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 11th June 2023

Envelopes: £18.00 Loose Plate: £58.40

Contactless: £0.00 Online banking: £510.50

2nd Collection for Flowers: £53.00

Thatch Fund: £30.00

Thank you for your contributions to the parish

2nd Collection this weekend 17th/18th June:

Diocesan Collection: Day for Life

Please see the notice inside the newsletter.

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at £38,635.08 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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