



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

Parish Newsletter

25th 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 TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Parish Mass Book page 93

Reflection on the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Beloved in Christ, if there is anything we must be sure of in this life, it is the fact that God loves us and cannot exchange his love for us for anything else. The power of Jesus' death on the cross turned God into a 'slave of love' for us even while we are sinners. He offers us countless opportunities for change. He makes rain to fall for us and the sun to shine for us. We do not pay for breath and which we cannot even afford to pay for no matter how rich we might be. But his heart bleeds to see the way we live sometimes.

Our lives are often dotted with sin and corruption that we tend to reduce our prices and worth to that of sparrows sold for a penny. And even while we result to 'good for nothing' and due for auctioning as man would do, He still cannot exchange us for anything because every single hair on our head is important for Him.

This page of the Gospel is a renewed call for us to know how much God loves us and the reason why we must remain steadfast even when life persecutes us. We are worth more than sparrows.

Many believers have either lost their faith in God completely or are lukewarm and do not lend much interest to His cause because He seems insensitive to their sufferings. To feel abandoned by God is an almost everyday experience of faith because it is very hard to reconcile our daily challenges with the idea of a loving and caring Father.

But in reality, this does not come from the fact that we are truly convinced that God is insensitive but from the fact that we are mortally afraid of negatives. The 'negative' always threatens, and when we are not able to stand it, we are automatically placed under its control. Thus, it is its voice of dominance over us that often speaks on our behalf telling us how it is stronger than God and how God has abandoned us. Therefore, the crisis of faith comes from subscribing to the voice of the negative.

Beloved in Christ, it is not enough to be aware that suffering exists. It is part of faith to accept that suffering exists and that it is a personal experience each one of us must necessarily make. Hence, the acceptance of the existence of suffering should then be accompanied with the assurance that it is always transient. →

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 24th June

12noon First Holy Communion Mass

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int People of the Parish

Sunday 25th June

8:30am

10:15am

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 27th June

9:30am Int. Philip

Butson R.I.P.

Wed 28th June

9.30am St. Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr, Doctor of the Church, Mem.

Thursday 29th June

9:30am Holy Day of Obligation. Solemnity of Saints † Peter and † Paul, Apostles.

Friday 30th 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

And this conviction not only helps us to have mastery over suffering, but it also equally helps us to remain steadfast in God.

The prophet Jeremiah leads us on this path. He saw it all. He was felt alone in the world of suffering. But just look at this: "But the Lord is with me..." Friends, when suffering knocks on our doors; and when its voice roars within, let us not be tempted to use the expression, 'the Lord has abandoned me.' Jeremiah lends us the language that is unpleasant in the ear of our suffering, "but the Lord is with me."

Our God suffers with us. He is never passive and insensitive to our situations. One of the secrets to my personal spirituality is the keeping of the crucifix visible anywhere I am. In it I see my hunger, my thirst, my nakedness, my bleeding wounds, my loneliness, and my death. And after all my prayer and consolation will be, 'He passed through it into glory. So, I will survive through Him.'

Beloved in Christ, when we feel lonely and abandoned, when it seems that our prayers are unanswered, God knows and cares. His silence means a lot. Only those in the secret place of the Most High understand it.

PRAYER: *Watch over your faithful O Lord. Give us the strength of mind and heart to keep walking on the path of this world so that our struggles may not pull us aback nor make us slip away from you until we are finally united with you in eternity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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– 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.

Communion Antiphon *The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in good season*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– THIRTEENTH SUNDAY

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16 This is a holy man of God; let him rest there.

Psalms Res *I will sing forever of your love, O Lord*

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 When we were baptised, we went into the tomb with Christ, so that we too might live a new life.

Matthew 10: 37-42 Anyone who does not take his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

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

FR ALPHONSUS

Fr Alphonsus will be away from the parish on priestly annual leave from next Saturday, 1st July, and returning on Friday 28th July. We wish Fr Alphonsus safe travels and a lovely, restful holiday.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday July 1st at 9:00am in All Saint's Church Centre, Ash Rd. Please contact Carol to let us know you are coming carolwilton0@gmail.com All are welcome.

CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE - SOCIAL GATHERING

All are welcome to our summer-break gathering on Wednesday 12th July, in the church meeting room. **Starting at an earlier time of 1pm**, we hope that you might bring a plate of finger food to share around. Hot and cold drinks will be provided as usual. We will not be holding a meeting in August so please join us in July and enjoy a very friendly afternoon.

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.** Parish Registration Forms are available in the porch, or on the parish website, to fill in and return. Please consider how you can support the parish & submit a **'Sharing my Time & Talents'** leaflet, also found 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

The Draw for June will take place this Sunday, 25th June after the 8.30am Mass. Membership for the 200 Club is open to anyone over the age of 16yrs. You will find the necessary information and forms in the church porch or on the parish website.

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

8 children received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th June and 12 more will receive on 24th June. All 20 children will receive their certificates on Sunday at the 10.15am Mass. Please join us and keep these children 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

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION: 1st/2nd JULY 2023

By reason of the bond of unity and charity, the bishops of the Church, with their people, join together to produce those means which the Holy Father and the Apostolic See need to exercise works of mercy and charity and its service of the Universal Church. The Pope, being pastor of the whole Church, is attentive to the needs of those in grave difficulties. Visit: <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en/giornate-dell-obolo.html>

Our parish 2nd Collection next weekend will be in support of Peter's Pence. Thankyou in advance.

MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE.

Sept. 23rd, 3pm, at St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th/+ wedding anniversary this year, please let your parish know **as soon as possible**, providing: your names eg John and Mary Smith, your email address, home address, the anniversary - so that you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. **Spaces are limited.** OR email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk Title your email 'Hartley'

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 18th June 2023

Envelopes: £192.00 Loose Plate: £43.00

Contactless: £1.00 Online banking: £238.50

2nd Collection Day for Life : £26.50

Thatch Fund: £91.20

Thank you for your contributions to the parish

2nd Collection this weekend 24/25th June:

Health and Safety Costs

Please see the notice inside the newsletter.

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at £38,726.28 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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