



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

Parish Newsletter

16th July 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>



This parish is served by the Spiritans

St. Francis de Sales Live Stream: www.churchservices.tvhartley

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Parish Mass Book page 102

In our First reading today, the prophet Isaiah presents a beautiful analogy of rain and snow descending from heaven, nourishing the earth and enabling it to bear fruit. This imagery serves as a reminder that just as water sustains and revitalizes the land, God's Word holds a profound purpose and effect in our lives. It is not a mere collection of empty words or futile ideas but carries with it the power to accomplish precisely what God intends. His Word has the extraordinary ability to breathe life into our beings, bringing about transformation and fulfilment in ways we could never fathom.

When we open ourselves to the Word of God, we allow it to permeate the depths of our being, to penetrate our hearts and minds. It becomes a guiding force, leading us on the path of righteousness and virtue. God's Word has the power to ignite change within us, helping us to shed our old ways and embrace the transformative journey of faith. It renews us, breathes new life into our spirits, and offers a compass to navigate the complexities of life. In the presence of God's Word, we find solace, wisdom, and strength to face the challenges that come our way. It serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring us to persevere and to seek a deeper relationship with our Creator.

St Paul tells us in the Second reading that the arrival of the Kingdom of God will not be a smooth or easy journey; it will require a birthing process that involves pain and struggle. For those who have experienced loss, it can be difficult to trust in the emergence of new life. However, we are encouraged to embrace the journey, knowing that God's grace and presence will sustain us.

Matthew's Gospel today speaks to the different ways people receive and respond to the message of God. It challenges us to reflect on our own openness and receptivity to His Word. Are we like the hardened path, where the Word cannot penetrate our hearts because of indifference or distractions? Are we like the rocky ground, where we may initially embrace the Word with enthusiasm but lack the perseverance to endure challenges and trials? Are we like the thorny soil, where worldly concerns and desires choke the Word and prevent it from bearing fruit? Or are we like the good soil, where the Word takes root, flourishes, and yields a bountiful harvest?

We pray for the grace to create fertile ground for God's Word to take root, grow, and bear fruit in our lives.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 15th July

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 16th July

8:30am

10:15am Int. People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 18th July

9:30am

Wed 19th July

9:30am

Thursday 20th July

9.30am

Friday 21st Jul

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

PRAYER BEFORE MASS: THE ANGELUS

V/ The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

R/ And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

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.

V/ 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— FIFTHTEETH SUNDAY

Isaiah 55: 10-11 The rain makes the earth give
growth

Psalms Res Some seed fell into rich soil, and
produced its crop.

Romans 8: 18-23 The whole creation is eagerly
waiting for God to reveal his sons.

Matthew 13: 1-23 A sower went out to sow.

Communion Antiphon *The sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her young: by your
altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever
singing your praise.*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK— SIXTEENTH SUNDAY

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 After sin you will grant
repentance

Psalms Res O Lord, you are good and forgiving

Romans 8: 26-27 The Spirit expresses our plea in a
way that could never be put into words.

Matthew 13: 24-43 Let them both grow until the
harvest

**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 Eu-
charist 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 contact the
parish office to arrange a visit.

PARISH NOTICES

FR ALPHONSUS IS ON ANNUAL LEAVE.

Fr Alphonsus is away from the parish until Friday
28th July. Fr. Jude Kurumeh CSSp is staying in the
parish to cover during this period; you can see Fr
Jude after Mass or contact him at the parish office
should you need to speak with a priest.

REQUIEM MASS FOR SALLY PRESTON

The Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday
2nd August at 11.00am, followed by burial at
Hartley Burial Ground. Parishioners are
encouraged to attend and offer support to Daniel,
Matthew, and the Preston family. The family
extends an invitation to join them afterwards at
Hartley Country Club for refreshments.

Please note, we will not have a 9.30am Mass on
Wednesday 2nd August.

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.** Registration Forms are
available in the porch, or on the parish website.
Please consider how you can support the parish
with your talents, skills and resources and submit a
'Sharing my Time & Talents' leaflet, also found on
the shelf in the porch area. Thankyou.

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the latest information and school news, visit us
at www.ourladyhartley.kent.sch.uk
As the school year ends on Friday 21st July, we
wish all teachers, staff and pupils a wonderful
summer holiday.

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 the 200 Club is open to anyone over 16yrs. Necessary information & forms can be found 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

Sundays during 10.15am Mass in school term time Please bring your 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 2024: THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST.

Parents of children starting school year 3 or above in September 2023, who are registered parishioners of this parish and attend Mass regularly, will be able to meet with Fr Alphonsus throughout August – 12th September to discuss their child's enrolment onto the Sacramental program for 2024. Subsequent to the meeting, parents whose children have been accepted onto the program will be given an enrolment form to complete. Please book an appointment through the parish office. Thankyou.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

Any young person starting school year 8 or above in September 2023 and attending Mass regularly, is invited, along with their parents, to meet with Fr Alphonsus to discuss enrolment onto the program.

Appointments can be made through the parish office throughout August – 12th September 2023.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 2024.

Journey in Faith: Are You Interested in Becoming a Catholic?

If you have never been baptized, if you were baptized in another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, or if you were baptized Catholic, but never received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation, you are welcome to join the RCIA programme, the process by which adults become Catholic.

Likewise, if you have received the Sacraments of Initiation and would be interested in learning more about the Faith, you are also welcome to join the programme. *Enquiry forms are available in church or on the parish website. Please speak with Fr Alphonsus if you'd like to discuss anything about RCIA*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Any adult who does not receive Communion please do speak with the parish priest for guidance.

MARRIAGE PAPERWORK PROCESS

You are required to give 6 months notice of Marriage – whether it is taking place here or abroad. Couples wishing to be married should speak to Fr Alphonsus as early as possible to begin the process.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SOLIDARITY

Join CAFOD on Wednesday, 26th July at 7 pm for an enlightening online talk as they host Archbishop John Wilson in conversation about his impactful visit to El Salvador. Register now for this event at: https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/ElSalvador?utm_bmc_source=SKD

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Invite you to join them in person for a Celebration in St George's Cathedral on Friday 21st July 7-9pm. Or join by livestream at <https://youtu.be/IYJjuXPTP1w>

MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE SEPT 23rd, 3pm, St George's Cathedral.

Are you celebrating 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th+ wedding anniversary this year? Let your parish know by **31st July**, with the following: your names, email & home address, the anniversary - to receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. OR email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 9th July 2023

Envelopes: £67.00 Loose Plate: £53.50

Contactless: £35.00 Online banking: £413.50

2nd Collection Stella Maris: £92.20

Thatch Fund: £39.80

Thank you for your contribution to the parish.

This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 15th/16th July:

Altar Flowers

THATCH FUND

Funding stands at £38,955.47. Target: £55,000.00

Please deposit your £1 weekly donation 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. Account number 34363181 Sort code 60-06-33.** If you are a UK tax payer, please submit a Gift Aid declaration form - **online** (follow directions on this page) or **hard copy** (on the shelf in the church porch) If you already use the parish Gift Aid scheme, *please* note your GA number against any donation. If you do not know your GA number, please contact the parish office for assistance

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 future projects.

Are you a UK Taxpayer?
Please consider joining the Parish Gift-Aid Scheme.

Simply scan the QR code with your phone and fill in the form or visit the web link.

Please contact the parish office for any assistance. Thankyou.

SUPPORT OUR PARISH
**Sign up to
Gift Aid &
Planned Giving**



Scan QR code
or visit: forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid/

Our parish is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO registered charity number 1173050

Other ways to support the parish financially are:

- (i) Weekly Gift Aid Envelopes (via Parish office)
- (ii) Using the Contactless Machine in the church
- (iii) Cash, or Cheque payable to **RCAS Hartley**
- (iv) Using the One-off Donation white envelopes
- (v) Online transactions to Nat West Bank Account Name: St Francis 34143580 sort code 60-06-33

Please contact the parish office for any assistance

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. Speak to Fr. Alphonsus and he will put you in touch. All matters are held in strictest confidence

YOUTH GROUP

All school aged children are welcome members of the Parish Youth Group. Leaders meet regularly to plan events for young parishioners. Contact: Laura Bourne via the parish office.

ADULT CHOIR

Thursdays at 7:30pm. New members are welcome
Contact: Yvonne at yhegarty@talktalk.net

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’.

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

Third Wednesday each month at 7:00pm in the 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. ***Our next meeting will be on 16th Sept.***

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.

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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