



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

Parish Newsletter

23rd July 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>



This parish is served by the Spiritans

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Parish Mass Book page 105

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower, we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

What are some of the little things that we can do to help make things better for others?

Let us pray that God will use our action to make a difference in the world and may our faith grow so that the Kingdom of God will be spread throughout the world.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 22nd July

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int The Freeman family

Sunday 23rd July

8:30am Int. Christy

Hansberry, R.I.P.

recently deceased.

10:15am Int. People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 25th July

9:30am Int. Jim Regan

R.I.P.

Wed 26th July

9:30am

Thursday 27th July

9.30am

Friday 28th 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— 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

Comm Antiphon *The Lord, the gracious, the merciful has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK— SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 You have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself.

Psalms Res *Lord, how I love your law!*

Romans 8: 28-30 God intended us to become true images of his Son

Matthew 13: 44-52 He sells everything he owns and sells the field

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 contact the parish office to arrange a visit.

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 and FR JUDE

Fr. Alphonsus will return from his annual leave on Friday 28th July. Until then, you can see Fr Jude after Mass or contact him at the parish office should you need to speak with a priest.

We are very grateful to Fr Jude for his presence and ministry in the parish during this month and we hope he has a safe journey back to his parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Acton, and a great summer.

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.

SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS (SMA) APPEAL

Each year, the Archdiocese allocates a Mission Appeal to a Missionary Society. Next weekend 28th/29th July, we will welcome the SMA (British Province) as they will be visiting the parish to make their Missionary Appeal. Our Second Collection will be in support of their ministry. Thankyou

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

JOB VACANCIES AT OUR LADY OF HARTLEY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

TA Vacancy 30 hours per week/term time only

<https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=121329>

School Receptionist/Secretary 37 hours per week/term time only

<https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=121609>

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 July will take place on Sunday 30th July after 8.30am Mass.

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

Children's Liturgy will resume after the summer break, in September. Our thanks to Victoria, Tendai and Sarah for their dedication throughout the year.

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 & SOLIDARITY: ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON IN CONVERSATION ON HIS VISIT TO EL SALVADOR. WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2023.

Join CAFOD for an enlightening ONLINE talk as they host Archbishop John Wilson in conversation about his impactful visit to El Salvador. The Archbishop will share his profound experiences and reflections on faith, solidarity, and the transformative power of connecting with communities in need. **Register now for this thought-provoking event:** https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/ElSalvadorutm_bmcr_source=SKD

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 16th July 2023

Envelopes: £41.00 Loose Plate: £60.10
Contactless: £40.00 Online banking: £455.50
2nd Collection Altar Flowers : £47.00
Thatch Fund: £80.25

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 22nd/23rd July:
Supply Costs (offset)**

THATCH FUND

Funding stands at £39,035.72 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) Through *Givealittle* on the parish website
- (iii) Using the Contactless Machine in the church
- (iv) Cash, or Cheque payable to **RCAS Hartley**
- (v) Using the One-off Donation white envelopes
- (vi) Online transactions to Nat West Account
Name: St Francis 34143580 sort code 60-06-33

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.
CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050