



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

Parish Newsletter

2nd 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

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Parish Mass Book page 96

**REFLECTION ON THE 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
 HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME**

In his letter to the Hebrews, St. Paul reminds them and us today to remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some have 'entertained angels without knowing it'.

This was exactly what the woman in the first reading did for Elisha the Prophet. She welcomed him and made him feel at home in her own house. Hospitality was her act of love and ministry.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus clearly says that he is above everyone and everything in our lives – even family! But this does not mean that we ignore or dismiss others, especially those who might be in any sort of need. If we say that we are indeed Christian and follow the message and example of Jesus, then we are to be actively concerned about others around us. Jesus also says that whoever welcomes and serves his followers, welcomes and serves him.

There would be something seriously wrong if we said that we were followers of Jesus and the gospel, but the quality of our daily lives did not show this. There would be something not quite right if we said we believed in loving our brothers and sisters, but our actions showed the opposite. As the Letter of St. James reminds us; 'Faith, if good deeds do not go with it, is quite dead'.

When we gather to pray with each other at the Eucharist, we do so as brothers and sisters of Jesus and each other. Just before Mass ends, we are sent out with these words of mission, 'Go now to love and serve the Lord'. Having heard the Word of God and shared the Body and Blood of Christ, we are sent out to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving each other. Having prayed and precisely because we have prayed, we are to turn our attention to our brother and sisters, especially those who are in most need.

Oscar Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador for three years. He was murdered while saying Mass on 24th March 1980. He said: 'A religion of Sunday Masses but unjust week days, does not please the Lord; a religion of much prayer, but with hypocrisy in the heart, is not Christian'.

Through the Gospel, we hear Jesus asking us to commit our daily lives to him as his followers. May we also reach out and offer hospitality and kindness to those around us, especially those most in need of our help.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 1st July

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 2nd July

8:30am

10:15am Int. People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 4th July

9:30am

Wed 5th July

9.30am

Thursday 6th July

9:30am

Friday 7th July

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– 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.

Communion Antiphon *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

Zachariah 9: 9-10 See now, your king comes humbly to you.

Psalms Res *I will bless your name forever, O God my King*

Romans 8:9, 11-13 If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Matthew 11: 25-30 I am gentle and humble of heart.

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 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.

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.

PARISH NOTICES

FR ALPHONSUS ON ANNUAL LEAVE.

Fr Alphonsus will be away from Saturday 1st July - Friday 28th July. We wish Fr Alphonsus safe travels and a lovely holiday. We warmly welcome Fr. Jude Kurumeh CSSp, who is covering for Fr Alphonsus.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of a beloved parishioner, Sally Preston, who died on Tuesday 27th June 2023. We also pray for Daniel and Matthew and the Preston family at this time.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday July 1st at 9:00am in All Saint's Church Centre, Ash Rd. Contact Carol to let us know you are coming carolwilton0@gmail.com All 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**, please bring a plate of finger food to share around. We will not be holding a meeting in August so please join us to enjoy a lovely afternoon in friendly company.

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 and submit a 'Sharing my Time & Talents' leaflet, also found in the porch, thank you.

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 SUMMER DRAW

Winners: 1st Prize £100 No. 89 C. Wilton. 2nd Prize £70 No. 3 S. Gregory. 3rd Prize £50 No. 43 M. Jackson. 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

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 would like to discuss anything about RCIA.*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Any adult who does not receive Communion please do speak with Fr Alphonsus for guidance.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

PETER'S PENCE 2nd 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> Thankyou for your help

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? Please let your parish know by latest end of July, providing the following: your names eg John and Mary Smith, your email address, home address, the anniversary - to receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. OR email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk Reference 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)

'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. *Please see the notice in the newsletter for July meeting.*

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 to registered charities, so you can raise funds for us no matter what you're buying. **It is easy & FREE to sign up** 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 25th June 2023

Envelopes: £42.75 Loose Plate: £165.05

Contactless: £60.00 Online banking: £376.50

2nd Collection H & S : £43.90

Thatch Fund: £49.50

Thank you for your support to the parish

2nd Collection this weekend: Peter's Pence

Next weekend's 2nd Collection 8/9th July is for Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the Sea)

THATCH FUND

Our funding stands at **£38,775.78 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. 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 Name: St Francis 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. CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050