



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

**Parish Newsletter**

**30th July 2023**

**White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW**

**Tel: 01474705361 Email [hartley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.churchservices.tvhartley)**

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A** Parish Mass Book page 108

**Reflection for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

Solomon's example in the first reading today serves as an inspiration for individuals in leadership roles, whether it be within the Church, politics, schools, or communities. He demonstrates a profound understanding that leadership is not merely a position of power, but rather an opportunity for service and sacrifice. When God presents Solomon, a young leader, with the chance to ask for anything he desires, Solomon's response is a testament to his selflessness and wisdom and reveals his deep concern for the well-being of the people he will govern. Wisdom, in his eyes, is the key to making sound decisions that will benefit those under his leadership; it is not about personal gain, but about serving others and ensuring their welfare.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples about the kingdom of heaven using parables. He compares the kingdom to a hidden treasure in a field. If someone finds it, they would be so happy that they would sell everything they have just to buy that field and keep the treasure. Jesus also compares the kingdom to a merchant who is searching for valuable pearls. When the merchant finds a pearl that is worth a lot, he sells everything he owns to buy it.

These parables teach us important lessons about the kingdom of heaven. They show us that the kingdom is like a precious treasure or a valuable pearl. It is something so special and important that we should be willing to give up everything we have to be a part of it. Jesus wants us to understand that the kingdom of heaven is worth more than any material possessions we may have.

He also tells us that those who are knowledgeable about the kingdom should be like wise leaders, who bring out both new and old teachings and share them with others. These parables remind us to value the kingdom of heaven above all else and to keep growing in our understanding of it.

How can we apply the lesson from these parables in our own lives and what steps could we take to deepen our understanding of the kingdom and share its teachings with others?

May we embrace a deep love for God, His Word, and His will, knowing that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love Him, with all those that He has called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28-30).

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

**Tue-Fri 8:45am-4:00pm**

**Sat 10:00am-6:30pm**

**Sun 7:45am-12noon**

**SUNDAY MASS**

**Saturday 29th July**

**5:30pm Vigil Mass.**

Int. People of the Parish

**Sunday 30th July**

**8:30am** Int. Patrick and

Cheryl Shirley, Golden

Wedding Anniversary

**10:15am**

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tuesday 1st August**

**9:30am**

Saint Alphonsus Liguori,

Bishop, Doctor of the

Church, Memorial.

**Wednesday 2nd August**

**No Mass at 9.30am**

**11.00am** Requiem Mass

for Sally Preston

**Thursday 3rd August**

**9.30am**

**Friday 4th August**

St John Vianney, Priest,

Patron of parish priests.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:hartleypcc@rcaos.org.uk)**

**Safeguarding representative: Judith Stephens**

**Email: [hartleysg2safeguard@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hartleysg2safeguard@rcaos.org.uk)**

## TEXTS FOR THIS 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

**Communion Antiphon** *Bless the Lord, O my soul and never forget all His benefits.*

## TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK— EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

**Isaiah 55: 1-3** Come and eat

**Psalms Res** You open wide your hand O Lord, you grant our desires.

**Romans 8:35, 37-39** No created thing can ever come between us and the love of God, made visible in Christ.

**Matthew 14: 13-21** They all ate as much as they wanted.

**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

### SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS (SMA) APPEAL

This weekend 28th/29th July, we will welcome Fr Henry Somah to the parish to make a Missionary Appeal on behalf of the SMA. Our Second Collection will be in support of their ministry. Thankyou in advance for your generous response.

### REQUIEM MASS FOR SALLY PRESTON

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 would extend an invitation to join them afterwards at Hartley Country Club. The Mass will be livestreamed for those who are unable to attend.

## 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>

Please note, the Closing date for Applications is Monday 31st July 2023. Thankyou.

### ‘RIDE & STRIDE’: SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2023

Sponsored walk to raise funds for the upkeep of local ancient churches. Please join us on our lovely walk, or sponsor one of our walkers. Details from Carol, email [carolwilton0@gmail.com](mailto:carolwilton0@gmail.com)

**AT ST ANSELM’S PAISH, DARTFORD - A Day with Marino Restrepo Saturday 5th August 2023 1.00pm – 7.00pm.** Marino Restrepo is a world-renowned evangelist with an amazing testimony of his conversion and insight to help us with our Faith. There will be three presentations, with his testimony at 1.30pm. The afternoon includes Exposition, Mass at 5.00pm, Rosary and Divine Mercy devotion, with tea breaks. Please see the poster on the church noticeboard for more details.

## 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](http://www.ourladyhartley.kent.sch.uk)

### SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (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’.

## **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.

## **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 this weekend, 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. Please speak with Tina or Kate for further assistance

## **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 in September.

## **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. You may book an appointment now via 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 now via the parish office for a date in August and up to 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 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**

### **JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2023**

**'The Right to Stay: Free to Choose'** takes place Saturday 23rd September at St Edmund Catholic Church, Beckenham, Kent BR33NP. All are welcome. Mass at 10:00am Registration at 10:30am. The programme starts at 11:00am and ends at 4:00pm. Entrance is Free with lunch provided. (Donations suggested) The Keynote speaker will be Rt. Rev. Paul McAleenan, Bishop for Migration & Refugees. To register Email: [justiceandpeace@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:justiceandpeace@rcaos.org.uk)

### **ANNUAL DIOCESAN MARRIAGE MASS**

Saturday 23rd September at 3pm in St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating 1st/10th/20th etc Wedding Anniversary and would like to receive a personal invitation from Archbishop John Wilson, contact the parish office/email [mflsw@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflsw@rcaos.org.uk). **by Monday 31st July 2023.**



## **OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 23rd July 2023**

Envelopes: £116.30 Loose Plate: £49.00

Contactless: £55.00 Online banking: £491.50

**2nd Collection: £78.40**

**Thatch Fund: £42.70**

*Thank you for your contributions to the parish.*

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 29th/30th July:  
SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS APPEAL**

### **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](http://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/](https://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 envelope
- (vi) Online transactions to Nat West Bank.

Account: St Francis. Acc: 34143580 S.C. 60-06-33

### **'EASYFUNDRAISING' - DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?**

Please use **easyfundraising** when you shop online! Over 7,000 brands will give back small donations to registered charities, so you can raise funds for the parish no matter what you're buying. **It is easy & FREE to sign up.**

Please visit [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)

**Thankyou for all your support!**

### **PARISH GROUP MEETINGS**

#### **YOUTH GROUP**

Leaders meet regularly to plan events for young parishioners. Contact: Laura Bourne through the parish office [hartley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hartley@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **ADULT CHOIR**

Thursdays at 7:30pm. New members are welcome Contact: Yvonne at [yhegarty@talktalk.net](mailto:yhegarty@talktalk.net)

#### **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](mailto: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 is on Wed 16th Sept.**

#### **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

Meet with the parish priest to arrange visits.

#### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)**

Monthly meetings arranged by the SVP group. Contact can be made through the parish office.

#### **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](mailto: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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