



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

**Parish Newsletter**

**9th 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)**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A (Sea Sunday) Parish Mass Book page 99**

There are times when many of us feel overburdened in our daily life. There can be so many demands, so much to do. In today's Gospel we heard Jesus say *'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.'* For seafarers, life at sea can be extremely challenging. They are often far from their families and loved ones for long periods of time, working long hours, and facing the threats of accidents, piracy, and harsh weather conditions. And when they come into port in a foreign land, they know no one.

Stella Maris has over 1,000 chaplains and volunteers in ports all over the world, who help seafarers and fishers when they are overburdened and in need of rest. Stella Maris' work, supported by your prayers and generosity, can make a huge difference.

A ship arrived at Teesport in North East England last year with 22 seafarers on board. Two Stella Maris ship visitors conducted a routine visit, taking with them welcome packs and bags of clothing. It transpired that the crew was under huge mental and physical strain. One confided that, during the voyage to Teesport from the USA, he had only been getting two hours sleep a night because he was so stressed and overworked. He was also concerned that the crew were no longer able to operate the vessel safely as they were all exhausted. The Stella Maris team contacted the relevant authorities and a vessel detention notice was served that afternoon. As a result, the seafarers were able to go ashore for the first time in many months and spent time relaxing at the seafarers' centre in the port. 11 of the crew were repatriated to the Philippines later that month.

Stella Maris' work on behalf of the Church, such as ship visiting, can only happen because of your support - your generosity helps its chaplains and volunteers to support over 137,000 seafarers in ports around the UK and to reach 70,000 ships around the world. Your contributions today will help this work to continue and grow. They will be an expression of God's love, helping to bring rest to overburdened seafarers and fishers.

*'Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine.'*

**Stella Maris envelopes are available in the porch or please see the Diocesan Notices inside the newsletter for other ways to donate. Thankyou for your generous support. Visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk) to read more about their work**

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

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

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

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

**SUNDAY MASS**

**Saturday 8th July**

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

**Sunday 9th July**

**8:30am Int. People of the Parish**

**10:15am**

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tuesday 11th July**

**9:30am**

**St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe, Feast**

**Wed 12th July**

**9:30am Int. Claire Ferrill R.I.P.**

**Thursday 13th July**

**NO Mass**

**Friday 14th July**

**NO Mass**

**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)**

## 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– FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

**Zechariah 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.

**Communion Ant.** *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.*

## TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– FIFTEENTH 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.

## 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 IS ON ANNUAL LEAVE.

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

### NO MASS on 13th and 14th JULY

With apologies, please note there will be NO 9.30am Mass on Thursday 13th & Friday 14th July.

### 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.

### PARISH FETE– GRAND DRAW WINNING TICKETS

All but one of the prizes from the Fete Grand Draw have been claimed. We have been unable to contact the holder of Ticket number **1013** – for the prize of a £20.00 Photography Voucher. If you are in possession of this ticket, please contact the parish office to claim your prize. 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 by using your talents, skills and resources and please 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)

## **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 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 in August 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.

## **DIOCESAN NOTICES**

### **SEA SUNDAY 2023 – DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION.**

To donate: **Text SEA** to 70460 or **Use the envelope provided** if you are a taxpayer, to make your gift go 25% further or **Use the Contactless machine** in the church porch. You can also **Donate online at [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate)** Thankyou so much

### **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS CELEBRATION**

The organisers of the Life in the Spirit Seminars, invite you to join them for a Celebration Evening in St George's Cathedral on Friday 21st July 7-9pm for Praise and Worship, testimonies, and a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit with Archbishop John Wilson presiding. All are welcome to attend. The event will also be live-streamed, please click the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=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? 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 2nd July 2023

Envelopes: £89.00    Loose Plate: £66.00

Contactless: £30.00    Online banking: £813

2nd Collection Peter's Pence : £48.00

Thatch Fund: £88.70

*Thank you for your contribution to the parish.*

**Diocesan 2nd Collection Sunday 8th/9th July:  
Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the Sea)**

*Please see the notice inside the newsletter*

### **THATCH FUND**

**Our funding stands at £38,915.67 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](http://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](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 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](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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