



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

Parish Newsletter 13th August 2023
 White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW
 Tel: 01474705361 Email hartley@rcaos.org.uk
 Web: <http://saintfrancisdesales.org.uk>



This parish is served by the Spiritans

StFrancisDeSalesHartley
 sfdhartley sfdhartley

<https://tinyurl.com/vc7w838m>

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

NINETEETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Parish Mass Book page 114

Reflection: Discovering God in Life's Quiet Moments

In the first reading, we learn about the prophet Elijah finding comfort with God on Mount Horeb. This story teaches us about the importance of sensing God's presence amidst challenges.

Elijah's journey reflects our spiritual path. Sometimes life is tough, and we seek solace from God. God's voice is gentle and subtle, not always grand or powerful. We must pay attention to God's quiet presence. The noise of the world can drown it out. Like Elijah, let's find moments of calm to listen.

God's response to Elijah shows His love and understanding. He cares for us, even in dark times. Trust that God is close and loves us. The "still, small voice" is how God speaks to us. It may not be loud, but it guides and comforts us. In our faith journey, we may face doubt and fear. But remember to pray and meditate, turning to God for support.

Be aware of God's gentle presence in life. Through prayer, reading Scripture, and the sacraments, we grow closer to Him. Trust that God guides us on our journey of faith.

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses a stormy situation to strengthen the faith of his disciples. Despite being away, Jesus comes to their rescue, but they struggle to recognize him at first. When Jesus says, "Take courage. It is I," he emphasizes his divine presence, but the disciples still seek proof. Peter, with wavering faith, asks to walk on water towards Jesus but starts to sink due to fear. Jesus reminds them to trust and asks why they doubted.

Finally, as the storm calms, the disciples recognize Jesus as the Son of God. This gospel encourages us to have unwavering faith in the face of life's challenges, knowing that Jesus is always with us.

We are invited to examine our own faith journey. Like the disciples, we may face storms and challenges that test our faith, but Jesus reminds us to take courage, trust in Him, and step out in faith. Even when we falter, we can call out to Him, knowing that He is ever-present and ready to save us. Ultimately, by recognizing Jesus as the Son of God, we can find solace and strength, knowing that He walks with us through the storms of life, guiding us safely to the shores of His love.

We pray for the grace to keep our hearts turned to God, to His love, to His Fatherly tenderness, in storm or stillness, knowing that Jesus is with us always.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 12th August

11.00 Baptism: Grace Mealey

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int People of the Parish

Sunday 13th August

8:30am

10:15am

12.00 Baptism: Finn Mooney

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 15th August

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:30am Int Bernie & Jim Wedding Anniversary

Wednesday 16th August

9.30am

Thursday 17th August

9.30am

Friday 18th August

No Mass at 9.30am

11.00am: Requiem Mass for Alyson Antao

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

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– NINETEENTH SUNDAY

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13 Stand on the mountain before the Lord

Psalms Response *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

Romans 9: 1-5 I would willingly be condemned if it could help my brothers.

Matthew 14:22-23 Tell me to come to you across the water.

Communion Antiphon *O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.*

TEXTS FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM (Tues)

Apocalypse 11:19, 12: 1-6, 10 A woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon

Psalms Res 44: 10-12 *On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold*

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 Christ as the first-fruits and then, those who belong to him.

Luke 1: 39-56 The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK - TWENTIETH SUNDAY

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7 I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain

Psalms Res: *Let the peoples praise you O Lord, let all the peoples praise you.*

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 With Israel, God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Matthew 15: 21-28 Woman, you have great faith

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 contact the parish office to arrange a visit.

PARISH NOTICES

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2023.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics to attend Mass. Our Mass will be at 9.30am on Tuesday 15th August.

St Francis de Sales 200 Club - Calling all members -

Thank you for your continued support. The end of August is renewal time for 200 Club membership, please look out for an email or letter telling you what you need to do. Renewal payment must be received by 12th September in order to continue your membership. Many thanks. Tina and Kate.

Membership for the 200 Club is open to anyone over 16yrs. Necessary forms etc can be found in the church porch or on the parish website.

‘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

PARISH OPEN-AIR MASS AND PICNIC

We will have our annual open-air Mass on **Sunday 17th September at 11.00am** in the grounds of Our Lady of Hartley School, Stack Lane. Please note the date and time on your calendar. It will be the only parish Mass celebrated that weekend - there will not be a 5.30pm Mass on Saturday 16th nor 8.30am Mass on Sunday 17th. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this Mass and please invite your family and friends to join you. Refreshments will be served afterwards on the school field and please bring a picnic so we can have lunch together

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER 2023

In Our Lady of Hartley School, starting at 7pm. Please save the date and gather your teams - a maximum of 8 people per team. Open to all ages. More details will follow shortly.

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.** 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.

PARISH DATABASE - ARE YOU REGISTERED?

All parishioners were asked in October 2020 to submit a Parish Registration form to help update the parish database. **If you did not submit this at**

the time, please do so now, as you/your family may not show up in the records as being registered parishioners. This is important especially if you wish to enrol children for parish Sacramental programs. We are also required to submit updated parish statistics annually to the Diocese. Thankyou for your cooperation, this is greatly appreciated.

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the latest information and school news, visit us at 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

'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/>

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 to 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 through the parish office.**

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 through the parish office** for a date throughout August 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

'AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS' - PODCAST

Whether you're staying at home or travelling abroad, there's always time to walk with the Lord and deepen your faith. You can subscribe to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Podcasts using Apple Podcasts , Spotify, Amazon, and TuneIn. [Feed: \[cbcew.org.uk/feed/podcast/at-the-foot-of-the-cross\]\(https://www.cbcew.org.uk/feed/podcast/at-the-foot-of-the-cross\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/feed/podcast/at-the-foot-of-the-cross) Visit www.cbcew.org.uk

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 6th August 2023

Envelopes: £97.00 Loose Plate: £39.50

Contactless: £25.00 Online banking: £242.50

2nd Collection: £78.00

Thatch Fund: £39.40

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 12th/13th August:
Maintenance Work at the Presbytery**

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,218.83 of Target £55,000.00 (71%)

Thankyou for your continued support! Please keep depositing 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 below) 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 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

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

ADULT CHOIR

Thursdays at 7:30pm. New members are welcome
Contact: Yvonne at 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

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

Meets 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 if you would like to learn more about us.

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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