



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

**Parish Newsletter 20th August 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](https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisDeSalesHartley)  
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This parish is served by the Spiritans

<https://tinyurl.com/vc7w838m>

**St. Francis de Sales Live Stream: [www.churchservices.tvhartley](http://www.churchservices.tvhartley)**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A** Parish Mass Book page 117

Love is at the heart of who God is and who we are called to be. The focus of the readings this Sunday is God's love for all peoples and the invitation to share in his divine life. God's love goes beyond national boundaries or racial or ethnic distinctions. God is above historical reality, for he is eternal. He breaks through the barrier of time and enters into history through the covenant so that he might be known. God's love for all nations and peoples is communicated first through Israel and ultimately through his Son. What does this mean for me? What are my expectations? What are my hopes? What are the expectations and hopes of the people with whom I am associated by blood, by ethnicity, by race or by citizenship? Jesus challenges us all to reformulate those basic questions from his Father's perspective, which may not always be ours. What are God's expectations for me? What are God's hopes for me? What are God's expectations and hopes for all peoples? God's love is strong and powerful, it never goes away. He constantly loves and calls us to love. He is love and that love is life and Jesus personifies this love in human fashion. He shows us how to live in divine love and he teaches us that all peoples have a share in that life of love; each one of us is part of His plan. Catholic Social Teaching is based on this belief that God has a plan for creation, a plan to build his kingdom of peace, love and justice. It holds that God has a special place in this story for each of us, whoever we are. In the story of our parish, we each belong, we each have our place, and to that end, we are encouraged to join a parish group in which we can build friendships, and from where we can reach out to share God's plan, the Church's mission. One group to bring attention to this week is **The Knights of St. Columba**, named after the missionary Saint who brought the Christian Faith to Scotland and Northern England. Founded to support the mission of the Church and to work for the spiritual, intellectual and material welfare of its members and their families, in particular, to help young people develop in the likeness of Christ through the Fundamental Virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. The three standing members of our parish KSC need the support of new members to help in this mission. If you are interested to learn more, please speak to Fr Alphonsus.

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN**  
**Tue-Fri 8:45am-4:00pm**  
**Sat 10:00am-6:30pm**  
**Sun 7:45am-12noon**

**SUNDAY MASS**  
**Saturday 19th August**  
**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

**Sunday 20th August**  
**8:30am**

**10:15am** Int People of the Parish

**11.30am Baptism**  
 Henry Patrick Finnegan

**WEEKDAY MASS**  
**Tuesday 22nd August**  
 The Queenship of The Blessed Virgin Mary  
**9:30am**

**Wednesday 23rd August**  
**9.30am**

**Thursday 24th August**  
 St. Bartholomew, Apostle, Feast  
**9.30am**

**Friday 25th August**  
**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 - 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

**Communion Antiphon** *With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.*

## TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK - TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY

**Isaiah 22: 19-23** I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

**Psalms Res:** *Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.*

**Romans 11:33-36** All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him.

**Matthew 16: 13-20** You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

**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

#### **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.

**The Draw for August** will take place on Sunday 27th after the 8.30am Mass.

#### **'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)

### 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.

#### SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

'We are a small group who offer confidential support through phone calls, house visits, accompanying to local medical, dental appointments. We also offer confidential financial support. Contact us via the parish office.'

**SVP- WORKING NATIONALLY WITH 'CASH4COINS' .** 'Cash4Coins is a great opportunity to make some money out of old coins and leftover holiday currency for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. So often after a holiday abroad, you have leftover currency which is not used, or perhaps you have old coins and banknotes which are no longer legal tender. Well, now it can benefit the work of the SVP both locally and nationally. Working with Cash4Coins, a currency service for charities, the SVP can collect: All foreign coins/banknotes, Current UK coins/banknotes, Any old British and Irish money, Obsolete currency, such as pre-decimal. 50% of the funds raised will go to our Conference, and 50% will support the Society's wider work'. You can drop your coins/notes in the Cash4Coins box in the meeting room. Thankyou

### **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**

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**

### **INTERESTED IN KNOWING YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH MORE DEEPLY AND IN SHARING IT WITH OTHERS?**

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis is pleased to announce **The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies** will begin in mid-September 2023 and **The Archbishop's Certificate 2023/25**, an online 2 years course, will start on 7th October 2023. Leaflets detailing the courses and enrolment are available in the porch or visit [aec@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aec@rcaos.org.uk)



## OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 13th August 2023

Envelopes: £44.00 Loose Plate: £32.60

Contactless: £10.00 Online banking: £746.00

**2nd Collection: £44.00**

**Thatch Fund: £40.00**

*Thank you for your contributions to the parish.*

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 19th/20th August:  
Maintenance Work at the Presbytery**

### THATCH FUND

**Funding raised £39,258.83 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 parish 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**

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](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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