



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

Parish Newsletter 6th August 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 TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, YEAR A Parish Mass Book page 173

Reflection for The Transfiguration of the Lord

Something remarkable happened on that mountain. Consider the possibility that it was not Jesus who changed but rather it was Peter, James and John who were transformed. Imagine that this account from Matthew's Gospel documents the experience of Peter, James and John as if their eyes were opened and their vision widened, enabling them to see without impediment the virtually blinding light of Jesus' love that flowed from every fibre of his being.

Indeed, every day of Jesus' life, something of that remarkable brilliance, that remarkable passion, and that remarkable glory, is revealed to people of all ages, stages and states of life. The shepherds and magi saw it; the elders in the temple saw it; the guests at the wedding saw it; the woman caught in adultery saw it; the boy possessed by demons saw it; the man born blind saw it; the good thief saw it.

If so many others could recognize it in a word, a glance, or a touch, why might Peter, James and John have required such extra effort in helping them to see Jesus' glory? Perhaps, it was because they were so close to Jesus. Perhaps, it was because they were with him every day. Perhaps, it was because, on some level, they had somehow taken his glory for granted.

What about us? Do we recognize that same divine glory present in us, present in others, present in creation, present in even the simplest and most ordinary, everyday experiences of justice, truth, healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and compassion? Or do we take it for granted?

St. Francis de Sales saw the Transfiguration as a "glimpse of heaven." How might our eyes, our minds and our hearts need to be transfigured and transformed in ways that enable us to catch this "glimpse of heaven" within us and around us? How might we need to see more clearly the glory of a God who always loves us, redeems us, heals us, forgives us, challenges us, pursues us, strengthens us and inspires us?

Let us ask for the grace to grow in our ability to make that "glimpse of heaven" more clearly visible and available to the eyes – and in the lives – of others.

Today, may God help us to recognize the remarkable things that occur every day in our own lives...and in the lives of one another!

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

THE TRANSFIGURATION

OF THE LORD, Feast

Saturday 5th August

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 6th August

8:30am Int. Ann Graine, well-being

10:15am Int. People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 8th August

St Dominic, Priest, Mem
9:30am

Wednesday 9th August

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)
9.30am

Thursday 10th August

St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr, Feast.
9.30am

Friday 11th August

St. Clare, Virgin, Mem.
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

TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK– THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 His robe was white as snow

Psalm Response The Lord is king, most high above all the earth

2 Peter 1:16-19 We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven

Matthew 17:1-9 His face shone like the sun

Communion Antiphon *When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK– NINETEENTH SUNDAY

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

Psalm 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*

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

July Draw Winners: 1st Prize £50 no. 117. 2nd Prize £25 no. 109 Mary Cracknell. 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.

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.

AT ST ANSELM'S PAISH, DARTFORD - 5th August

A Day with Marino Restrepo 1.00pm-7.00pm.

World-renowned evangelist with an amazing testimony of his conversion and insight to help us with our Faith. Testimony at 1.30pm, Exposition, Mass at 5.00pm, Rosary, Divine Mercy devotion. Further details are on the church noticeboard.

'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 ON 17th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 11.00AM.

We will have our annual open-air Mass on Sunday 17th September, starting at 11.00am in the grounds of Our Lady of Hartley School. Please note the date and time on your calendar. We will not have Mass at 8.30am on Sunday 17th September. All parishioners are encouraged to attend and please invite your friends and family to join you. There will be refreshments served afterwards and everyone is welcome to bring a picnic lunch.

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 do this at the time, please do so now, as your family may not show as being registered parishioners when you come to enrol for Sacramental programs etc.

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 through 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/>

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 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 in 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

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 your place at this event, please Email: justiceandpeace@rcaos.org.uk

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 30th July 2023

Envelopes: £54.00 Loose Plate: £35.60

Contactless: £25.00 Online banking: £740.50

2nd Collection Society of African Missions: £625.05

Thatch Fund: £67.25

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 5th/6th August:
Maintenance Work at the Presbytery**

THATCH FUND

Funding stands at £39,180.43 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.

'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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