



This parish is served by the Spiritans

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

**TWENTY- THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Parish Mass Book page 125**

The Scriptures for this Sunday remind us of our responsibility towards one another and our society. Most importantly, we are reminded that dialogue and mutual love is the best method to promote reconciliation.

To say that we have a responsibility towards others is also to say that it has a consequence for us too.

St Paul tells us to "Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love." The quality of this love is not just a mere selfish feeling or desire to satisfy oneself. Instead, it is that which thinks and cares about the good and welfare of the other and is ultimately known through the actions it prompts in us. This means it must be a relational love that cares, a love that is ready to give, and love that reasons. It is a mutual love because it takes and shares responsibility - it counsels, and accepts good counsel; corrects, and accepts corrections; it is generous in giving and in receiving and it is ultimately a communal love as Jesus assures of His presence when two or three gather in His name, underscoring the theme of divine presence within a united community. This highlights the significance of communal worship, prayer, and decision-making.

**PARISH OPEN-AIR MASS AND PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY**

We will have our annual open-air Mass on **Sunday 17th September at 11.00am** on the back playground in Our Lady of Hartley School, Stack Lane - using the front entrance to the school through the gate. Please arrive early enough to give yourself plenty of time to walk around to the back playground.

**Please note, this Mass will be the only Mass celebrated in the parish next weekend - there will not be a 5.30pm Mass on Saturday 16th nor 8.30am Mass on Sunday 17th.** Offertory and 2nd Collections will be taken at the Mass as usual. For those of you who use the contactless machine, this method will be available, thank you to everyone for your kind support.

**After the Mass**, weather permitting, we will serve refreshments on the school field and we invite everyone to please bring along a picnic lunch so that we can all enjoy spending some time together as a community.

**Volunteers will be needed to help set up the playground for Mass from 9.00am.** Please tick the Volunteer Sign-up sheet in the church to let us know you can help, and the Attending sheet to help us gauge numbers for seating. We look forward to seeing you there and please invite your family and friends to join you

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN:**

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

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

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

**SUNDAY MASS**

**Sat 9th September**

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

Int People of the Parish

**Sunday 10th Sept.**

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

Sheila Tucker 60th

Wedding Anniversary

**10:15am Int Sally Preston**

R.I.P.

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tues 12th September**

**9:30am David Coffey**

Anniversary. R.I.P.

**Wed 13th September**

**No Mass at 9.30am**

**10.30am Requiem Mass**

for Pat Brown

**Thurs 14th September**

**The Exaltation of the**

**Holy Cross, Feast.**

**9.30am Int. Staff and**

Pupils of OLOH School.

**Friday 15th September**

**Our Lady of Sorrows**

**9.30am Int. Pat Brown**

R.I.P.

**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: [hartleysg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:hartleysg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)**

## TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK, TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY

**Ezekiel 33:7-9** If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.

**Psalms:** *O that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**Romans 13: 8-10** Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

**Matthew 18: 15-20** If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

**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.

### MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass offered for yourself, someone else, or for any other intention, please take a brown Mass Offering envelope from the table in the porch, fill in the details and return it to the presbytery or to Fr Alphonsus directly. As Mass Intentions are made public, you must first seek permission from any living person before submitting the request. Thankyou.

### PARISH NOTICES

#### FUNERAL FOR PATRICIA BROWN

The Requiem Mass will take place here on Wednesday 13th September at 10.30am, followed by burial at Ash Burial Ground.

#### ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

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. **To all Current members**, please renew payment by 12th September to continue your membership.

#### CATHOLIC WELCOME CIRCLE MEETING

The CWC 13th September meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th October at 2pm. All are welcome to join us.

## RESTRUCTURING OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The existing Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members will offer their resignation at the end of September and will be invited, along with all parishioners, to put their names forward for specific PPC roles.

Should you wish to apply, please email Father Alphonsus at [alphonsusbeni@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:alphonsusbeni@rcaos.org.uk) with your name and any personal details you feel could assist Father Alphonsus. **Please apply by end of this weekend, Sunday 10th September 2023.**

The PPC will consist of the following:

- A. Parish Priest
- B. Chair
- C. Vice Chair
- D. Finance and Fundraising
- E. Safeguarding
- F. Health & Safety (incl. Statutory Maintenance)
- G. Building
- H. School Liaison
- I. Youth

The new PPC will be announced at the Open-Air Mass on the 17th September 2023 and will commence business on the 1st October 2023.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter.

### 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 in the porch area.

#### PARISH DATABASE - ARE YOU REGISTERED?

**If you did not submit a Parish Database in 2020, at please do so now, as a matter of urgency** - you/your family may not otherwise show up in the parish 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. Thanks for your support.

## **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'**

'Working with Cash4Coins, a currency service for charities, the SVP can benefit from all foreign or obsolete currency received. Please drop your coins/notes in the Cash4Coins box in the meeting room.'

## **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

## **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 to discuss their child's enrolment onto the Sacramental program for 2024. Subsequent to the meeting, parents will be given an enrolment form to complete. **Appointments can be booked now via the parish office, up to the closing date of Tuesday 12th September 2023.**

Preparation classes will take place in term-time on Friday afternoons from 3.30-4.30pm in the church. A meeting with all parents will be scheduled in September, ahead of the program commencing.

## **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 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**

### **KNOWING YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH MORE DEEPLY.**

**The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)** will begin in mid-September 2023 and **The Archbishop's Certificate 2023/25** will start 7th October 2023. The CCRS course presents the basic foundational teachings of the Catholic Church in a manner that is captivating, inspiring, and applicable. *Leaflets on both are available in the church porch.*

### **ANNUAL SERVICE OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Southwark, 'LOUDfence & Survivors Voices warmly invite you to 'A Service of Acknowledgement, Reflection and Prayer for those that have been harmed by Abuse' **on Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 6.30pm in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, with our Archbishop John Wilson presiding.** Please see the church notice board for further details. Thankyou.

## **OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 3rd September 2023**

Envelopes: £32.00 Loose Plate: £36.60

Contactless: £45.00 Online banking: £775.50

**2nd Collection: £36.55**

**Thatch Fund: £48.35**

*Thank you for your contributions to the parish.*

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 10th September:  
Catholic Education Service - Diocesan Collection**

### **THATCH FUND**

**Funding raised £39,374.62 of our Target £55,000.00**

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 Meeting Room 2:00pm. Contact: Margaret Walsh.  
**Apologies, our September meeting is cancelled.**

#### **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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