



Oratory of St. Francis de Sales Parish Newsletter 17th September 2023

*Roman Catholic Parish
Archdiocese of Southwark*

White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW

Tel: 01474705361 Email 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

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A (Home Mission Sunday) Parish Mass Book page 128

The Essence of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is central to the readings for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. Both readings convey that forgiveness is not merely a personal virtue but a spiritual principle deeply intertwined with our relationship with God. It's depicted as a path towards healing and grace, rather than a sign of weakness or concession. As we forgive others, we reflect God's infinite mercy and open ourselves to His healing love.

The readings also highlight the reciprocal nature of forgiveness: our willingness to forgive others is connected to the forgiveness we receive from God. We are urged to forgive others if we wish to be forgiven by the Lord. In Matthew's Gospel, the king's forgiveness of the servant's debt is conditioned on the servant's willingness to forgive others. This theme calls on us as Catholics to recognize forgiveness as a two-way street, a mutual exchange that reflects our understanding of God's mercy, and a necessary expression of our faith.

Today is Home Mission Sunday and our 2nd Collection will go to The Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization. Thankyou for your kind support.

PARISH OPEN-AIR MASS AND PICNIC THIS 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 this 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, thankyou 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 are asked to arrive at 9.00am to help set up the playground for Mass and the refreshment table for afterwards. 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 16th September

5:30pm NO Mass

Sunday 17th Sept.

8:30am NO Mass

11:00am Mass at Our Lady of Hartley School

Int. People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 19th September

9:30am Pat Brown R.I.P.

Wed 20th September

St Andrew Kim Tae-gon,
Paul Chong, Companions
9.30am

Thurs 21st September

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast
9.30am

Friday 22nd September

9.30am 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 (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: hartleysg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK, TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY

Ecclesiasticus 27:30 -28:7 Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Psalms: *The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Romans 14: 7-9 Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Matthew 18: 21-35 I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy times seven.

Communion Antiphon: *How precious is your mercy O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.*

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

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.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next ecumenical Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday September 23rd in our Parish Meeting Room commencing at 9 o'clock at finishing around 11 o'clock. All are most welcome.

Please let Carol know if you are intending to join us (for catering purposes) carolwilton0@gmail.com

HEALTH & WELLBEING DAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2023

Jubilee Medical Group are holding a 'Health and Wellbeing Day' on Saturday 30th September from 2pm-5pm at Long Valley Hall in Longfield. Please see the noticeboard for more information.

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 next week.

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.'

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 your kindness and support.

'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 next Sunday, 24th September, at the 10.15am Mass. Please bring your child into the Meeting Room before the start of Mass. Children will be brought into the church by the CL team after the Prayer of the Faithful.

Due to Safeguarding policy, parents, nor any other adult, can be in the Meeting Room while Children's Liturgy is taking place, thank you for your consideration in this matter.

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.

Applications have closed for enrolment onto this year's program.

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. Please contact Fr Alphonsus to arrange a meeting.

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. Thank you.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES (WDMR)

An annual celebration marked by the Church to increase awareness about migration and its opportunities, as well as its challenges. The day is marked on the last Sunday of September and has been celebrated by the Church since 1914. **This year, the celebration will be marked on Sunday 24th September.** Pope Francis has consistently reminded of our duty toward migrants and refugees and called for us to pray for those seeking a better life. In Preparation for the day CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network of England and Wales) is hosting a webinar on the evening of 20th September. Please register to attend by following the link: <https://www.csan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/WDMR-webinar-QR-code.png>

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 10th September 2023

Envelopes: £118.00 Loose Plate: £40.65

Contactless: £ Online banking: £510.50

2nd Collection: £43.20

Thatch Fund: £53.60

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 17th September:
Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization**

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,437.12 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.

'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 Meeting Room 2:00pm. Contact: Margaret Walsh.

Next meeting is Wednesday 11th October.

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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