



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

Parish Newsletter 15th October 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

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Mass Book page 140

Today, God invites us to His great banquet. It is a universal invitation for people of all nations. Hence, the good news this Sunday is that God is inviting each of us to his banquet! However, we must consider two things here.

Firstly, there is a location for this banquet – “On this Mountain.” So, we must hasten and make the effort to be there if we want to enjoy the banquet and “have our tears wiped away.” Secondly and a crucial consideration, is that it is a universal invitation. So, rather than read: “Strictly by invitation,” it reads “For all people!” In other words, each of us is a VIP at this banquet.

Hence, God invites us without any restrictions, but we must be on the mountain to partake of His blessings and favours. And in going to this mountain, we will not remain, or return, the same way we were before. This mountain is God’s divine presence, the place and house of prayer. When was the last time you climbed up there?

In our second reading today, Paul reminds us that if we respond fully to God’s invitation, He will continuously strengthen us with his blessings. However, it is important to note that God will not fulfil dubious or selfish needs. Instead, it refers to genuine needs according to the will of God.

In today’s Gospel, the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus teaches us that, like the first invitees, we may have rejected God’s invitation due to the pursuit of worldly satisfaction and pleasure- we are simply too busy to respond, there is no time for prayer, yet we seem to have time for the mundane. The consequences of rejecting God’s invitation are great but the good news for us is that when God’s chosen people rejected His special invitation, He changed the Invitation Card to: “Everyone (nation) is cordially invited!”

So why was someone thrown out? The man refused to wear the garment provided for the banquet, which was an insult to the king. Just as the king provided wedding garments for his guests, God provided faith and salvation for humanity, and He has made these freely available to us, through Christ Jesus.

Accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, means we not only accept the invitation to the wedding but we also wear the garment He has provided us.

As we are called, we pray for the grace to accept the call. *“The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want...surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the Lord’s House forever and ever.”*

THE CHURCH IS OPEN:

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 14th October

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int. Bernadette

Connelly R.I.P.

Sunday 15th October

8:30am Int. People of the Parish

10.15am Thanksgiving and for the private intentions of the choir.

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 17th October

St. Ignatius of Antioch.

9:30am Int.

Wed 18th October

St Luke, Evangelist.

9.30am Int.

Thurs 19th October

9.30am Int Kevin R.I.P.

Friday 20th October

Christine R.I.P.

9.30am

CONFESSIONS

Tues-Fri 8:40-9:20am

Saturday 4:30-5:20pm
or by appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: TUES, WEDS, 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- EIGHTH SUNDAY

Isaiah 25:6-10 The Lord will prepare a banquet, and will wipe away tears from every cheek

Res Psalm: *In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever.*

Philippians 4: 12-14,19-20 There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.

Matthew 22: 1-14 Invite everyone you can find to the wedding.

Communion Antiphon: *The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.*

FOR DAILY PRAYERS AND DAILY MASS READINGS ONLINE, VISIT <https://www.universalis.com>

October is the Month of the Rosary. For some guidance on praying the Rosary, please visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/praying-the-rosary/>

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

QUIZ NITE - THANKYOU

The quiz night last Friday 6th October was a very social event with over sixty contestants taking part. Nine teams competed for the title of Brains of St. Francis de Sales.

Congratulations to the winning team "The Magdalenas", a team from St. Mary's Longfield, who were awarded winning medals.

A big thank you to Mr Baker (Headteacher) and Our Lady of Hartley School for use the school hall. Also thanks to all who helped tidy the hall after the quiz and to Anna Coffey for organising the raffle and collecting the entry money.

In total, with money from the entry tickets, raffle, 'Heads & Tails' plus donations from various people, we are happy to announce that the total raised for the parish came to £571 – a fantastic amount.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL

Apologies for not having envelopes available for last weekend's CAFOD Collection. If you still wish to donate, there are envelopes on the table in the porch now, or you can scan the code here to donate directly. Thankyou for your kind support.



MISSIO & MILL HILL MISSIONARIES: 'RED BOX' VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR OUR PARISH.

Mill Hill Missionaries, Britain's own missionary society, have a Red Box collection scheme where parishioners keep a Red Box at home to build up donations over the year. Next weekend, boxes will be available to sign for and take home. We would need volunteers to help with emptying boxes annually and with distributing the *Mission Today* magazine. If you would like to be on a small team of helpers, please contact the parish office.

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the latest information and school news, visit us at www.ourladyhartley.kent.sch.uk

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.** Registration 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 Form in 2020, at please do so now - you/your family may not otherwise show up in the parish records as being parishioners. This is important especially if you wish to enrol for Sacramental programs.

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 consent from any living person before submitting the request. Thankyou.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

Membership for the 200 Club is open to anyone over 16yrs. All necessary information and forms etc can be found in the church porch or on the parish website. Speak to Tina or Kate for more. Thankyou.

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.'

Cash4Coins.

The contributions were sent off and raised £132 half of which will come to the SVP here in Hartley. We hope to do this again next year after the holiday period.

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 you 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-Y2

On Sunday at the 10.15am Mass. Please bring your child into the Meeting Room before the start of Mass. In compliance with Safeguarding Guidelines, parents are not allowed to remain in the meeting during this time, nor is the meeting room free for any other use. Thankyou for your co-operation.

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024. Next Preparation Class will be on Friday 20th October, 3.30-4.30pm.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

Any young person starting school year 8 or above in September 2023 and attending Mass regularly, is invited, to meet with Fr Alphonsus to discuss enrolment onto the program.

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 program, 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.

OTHER NOTICES

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY- 22nd OCTOBER 2023

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic community globally. It is a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence, and oppression. And every penny, pound, and prayer you contribute to World Mission Sunday helps missionaries continue their vital work.

In his message for October's World Mission Sunday celebration, Pope Francis has chosen the theme 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move' (cf. Luke 24:13-35). In response, Missio – the Pope's chosen charity for world mission – invites parishes and communities across England and Wales to take this literally and get walking to raise funds and awareness for mission in every continent.

For its biggest fundraiser in the year, Missio England & Wales invites communities to plan a special walk, meal, or coffee morning, at any time throughout the month of October, to raise funds and pray for our global missionary family.

If you would like to be part of this fundraising and help organise something, please contact the parish office. **Our 2nd Collection next weekend will be taken to support the work of Missio. Thankyou.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 8th October 2023

Envelopes: £31.00 Loose Plate: £58.15

Contactless: £36.00 Online banking: £708.50

2nd Collection: £114.60

Thatch Fund: £31.64

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

Please check that your GA number & the correct date are written clearly on your envelope. Thankyou

This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 8th October:

PACT- Prison Advice and Care Trust

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,710.41 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 transaction to Nat West Bank Account St Francis de Sales 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

Please contact the parish priest to arrange a visit.

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.

CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050