



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

Parish Newsletter 1st October 2023

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

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

ROSARY SUNDAY

Mass Book page 134

Reflection for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday, the Holy Mother Church draws our attention in a most special way to the importance of realizing what God wants from us and obediently carrying it out. There is a popular saying that "obedience is the first law in heaven", therefore, it is this virtue that will help us be who Christ is, and be where Christ is. Hence, we are called to celebrate and imitate Christ who obeyed the Father's will, even unto death.

The Gospel prompts us to reflect on the power of actions versus words. True transformation lies in our deeds, not just appearances - we might profess goodness but act differently. The sincerity of our hearts matters more than our knowledge, for what we do matters more than what we say.

In the parable of the two sons, there is plenty of common ground between those bible figures and our own fickle behaviour. One day we can be full of fervour and keen to profess our Christian Faith, come what may. The next we can't pray. We ask, Where is the God of yesterday?

Those who reject belief, Faith, Church, Religion and moral responsibility, continue life as contented, apparently, as everyone else. Many of them were our classmates with whom we received our First Holy Communion and Confirmation. They don't darken the door of the Church anymore. They changed their minds! Of all the gifts given to us by God, the freedom of choice is perhaps the greatest. We're not pre-determined beings; our choices are sacred and are literally our making, our doing and un-doing.

When we respond positively to God's grace as also reflected in the best and noblest inspirations and aspirations of our environment, we're shaping ourselves more firmly in the image and likeness of God our Creator. Part of the challenge of our day is to ignore the choices made by others and content ourselves with our own good choices which uplift and determine a better tomorrow for ourselves, our families, our community, and our world.

Let us pray for those who have changed their minds or way of life and turned away from God. May they experience afresh the fervour of their early faith and experience anew God's gifts of peace and joy.

Today, the Church celebrates Rosary Sunday, the prayer to Jesus through Mary. Visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/praying-the-rosary/> for guidance.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN:

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 30th September

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int. David Eaton R.I.P.

1st Anniversary

Sunday 1st October

8:30am

10.15am Int. People of the Parish

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 3rd October

9:30am

Wed 4th October

St Francis of Assisi

9.30am Int. The

Williams Family.

Thurs 5th October

9.30am

Friday 6th October

Harvest Fast Day

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-SIXTH SUNDAY

Ezekiel 18: 25-28 When the sinner renounces sin, he shall surely live.

Res Psalm: *Remember your mercy, Lord*

Philippians 2: 1-11 In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus

Matthew 21: 28-32 He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

Communion Antiphon: *Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.*

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

PARISH NOTICES

ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

September Draw winners: 1st Prize £50 No.26 M. Walsh. 2nd Prize £25 No.98 J.S. McMonagle. 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.

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.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES QUIZ NITE IS NEXT FRIDAY, 6th OCTOBER, IN OUR LADY OF HARTLEY SCHOOL.

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets are £3 per person, sold at the door. Please bring your own refreshments.

The quiz is for teams of 6 to 8 BUT don't worry if you can't make a full team as you can join others.

There will be the opportunity to buy raffle tickets as you come in and as the judges are calculating who has won, there will be a game of "Heads and Tails", so please bring a £2 coin to play before the winning team is announced.

We do need to know how many teams wish to enter so please contact us and let us know how many teams you wish to enter and how many are in each team. Contact Tina Shirley 07789862902 tinashirley28@gmail.com or Kate Whittaker 07854318948 kags52@btinternet.com Remember that all proceeds will go to parish funds. Thankyou.

CWC MEETING WEDNESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2pm

Please join the Catholic Welcome Circle in the Meeting Room for an entertaining couple of hours with tea & cake and an interesting talk from one of our parishioners. Everyone is most welcome.

MISSIO & MILL HILL MISSIONARIES: VOLUNTEER REQUIRED FOR OUR PARISH.

Missio is proud to be the Pope's own charity for overseas mission. Having a parish volunteer to help with the Missio Red Boxes and *Mission Today* magazine distribution, plays a vital role in the universal mission of the Church. Please contact the parish office for details if you would be willing to help, volunteering on a small team. Thankyou

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.** 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, 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. Thankyou 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 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 TO Y2

On Sunday, 24th September, at the 10.15am Mass. Please bring your child into the Meeting Room before the start of Mass. For Safeguarding purposes parents may not remain in the Meeting Room while Children's Liturgy is taking place. Thankyou

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Applications have closed for enrolment onto this year's program. A Meeting with parents will take place on Sunday 1st October immediately after the 10.15am Mass.

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

DAY SEMINAR AT AMIGO HALL 28th OCTOBER 2023

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark has announced a day seminar designed to advance its commitment to promote racial & cultural inclusion across the diocese. Entitled "Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion in Our Parishes, Schools and Communities", the seminar will be held at Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Southwark, from 9.30am to 4.00pm on Saturday 28 October 2023. To register please click on the link below Registration is FREE. <https://forms.office.com/e/1G3DvS124W>

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 24th September 2023

Envelopes: £31.00 Loose Plate: £44.15

Contactless: £15.00 Online banking: £371.50

2nd Collection: £32.50

Thatch Fund: £91.50

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 1st October:

Altar Flowers

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,621.77 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.

CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050