



Oratory of St. Francis de Sales Parish Newsletter 24th 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

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A (Day of Prayer for Migrants & Refugees) Mass Book page 131

Reflection for the 25th Sunday in ordinary Time

Today, we reflect on God's unimaginable ways and love. This love is incalculable by any human standard. Hence, the Church invites us to emulate this love.

In the first reading, Isaiah invites us to "Seek the Lord while he is to be found..." Here, we see a God who expresses his love for his people, a God who continues to search for us, a God who cares and is ready to welcome us.

In the second reading, Paul expresses his love for God and the Gospel. As Christians, we are often pulled in two directions. We all want to go to heaven, yet this life still appeals to us. Paul had the same mixed feelings. He longed to be with Christ, for that would be much better. However, he also wanted to live because of his love for his brothers in the faith. Love for Christ, and for each other, must motivate all our actions. It must be the source of our strength.

In the Gospel, Christ presents us with a dilemma. How could the employer pay everyone the same amount? It was difficult for the first group of workers to understand, just as it would be for most of us today. God reminds us, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways." What we see in the Gospel today is simply the justice of God. His justice is governed by his generosity and unconditional love for all. His action towards the last group of workers shows he is not acting according to strict justice or economics. Instead, he is motivated by love and generosity toward all who respond to his invitation.

To each of us, he has extended the same unmerited invitation. He will pay the same wage to everyone because his love is unconditional. His reward depends not on when he calls anyone but on his generous and unimaginable love for all.

What counts in God's vineyard is not years of service but the diligence of heart as a chosen one. All men are equally precious to God, no matter when they come in. God's reward for all in His kingdom is this: His grace extended to all who responded faithfully to His divine invitation. The Lord is close to all who respond to his invitation. It does not matter how and when. His love is for all.

My sincere thanks to everyone who took part in last week's Open-air Mass by attending, by helping to organise, set up and tidy up afterwards; to the school and to all our young readers and Mass helpers, and to our choirs and musicians.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN:

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 23rd September

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 24th Sept.

8:30am Int. People of the Parish

10.15am Mass

WEEKDAY MASS

**Tues 26th September
9:30am**

Wed 27th September
St. Vincent de Paul,
Priest, Memorial.
9.30am

**Thurs 28th September
9.30am**

Friday 29th September
Saints Michael, Gabriel
& Raphael, Archangels.
9.30am Int R.I.P Husan,
Carol & Denis Ismail.

CONFESSIONS

Tues-Fri 8:40-9:20am
Saturday 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-FIFTH SUNDAY

Isaiah 55: 6-9 My thoughts are not your thoughts

Res Psalm: *The Lord is close to all who call him*

Philippians 1: 20-24,27 Life to me is Christ

Matthew 20: 1-16 Why be envious because I am generous

Communion Antiphon: *You have laid down your precepts to be properly kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.*

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

Our September Draw will take place this Sunday 24th September after the 8.30am Mass.

Membership for the 200 Club is open to anyone over 16yrs. You can join at any time. All necessary information and forms etc can be found in the church porch or on the parish website. Thankyou.

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

ST FRANCIS DE SALES QUIZ NITE - FRIDAY 6th

OCTOBER 2023 Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Time is fast approaching for the Quiz night.

The quiz is for teams of 6 to 8 BUT don't worry if you can't make a full team as there will be other teams grateful for those extra grey cells.

Tickets are £3 per person, sold at the door. Please bring your own refreshments.

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

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.

OUR LADY OF HARTLEY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

PRIMARY SCHOOL JOB VACANCIES

St Bartholomew's RC Primary School in Swanley is looking for a class teacher and a teaching assistant to join their wonderful staff team. If you would like more information, please phone the school office on 01322663119. Giovanna McRae, Headteacher St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School. Email headteacher@st-bartholomewsrc-pri.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 17th September 2023

Envelopes: £27.00 Loose Plate: £158.59

Contactless: £2.00 Online banking: £208.50

2nd Collection: £15.50

Thatch Fund: £15.00

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 24th September:
Home Mission - Diocesan Collection**

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,452.12 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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