



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

Parish Newsletter 8th 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

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Mass Book page 137

In today's Gospel, like in the first reading, we find another allegory of the vineyard. In it, Jesus addressed the chief priests and the elders of the people in the temple. This time, the Pharisees and the Scribes were portrayed as the bad and wicked tenants who, instead of rendering a good account, decided to overthrow the landlord. The question is, after throwing out these wicked tenants, to whom would the vineyard be given?

The good news for us this Sunday tells us "he will...lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him whenever he arrives."

When the Pharisees and their accomplices rejected the gospel, it was taken to the gentiles. This reading richly conveys some important truths about God and the way he deals with his people.

First, it tells us of God's generosity and trust. Second, it tells us of His patience and justice. Of course this parable simply was to remind the Pharisees that they killed the prophets and will also kill the son of God, Christ himself. However, the judgment pronounced on the original tenants must serve as a warning to us the new tenants, because: "To whom much is given much is expected."

Third is the fact that in whatever position we find ourselves now, we must be ready to render a positive and fruitful account to the Master and Lord of the vineyard. When we oppress the weak, the poor, and those we are supposed to take care of, when we fail to render justice to whom it is due, when we overturn the truth and prefer lies, and when we bring others pain and sorrow instead of joy, we disappoint

Finally, Jesus says: "The stone the builders rejected become the key stone". In deed, as much as he speaks to the Pharisees of old, so does he speak to us too. They rejected Christ, the heir to the vineyard, and even killed him, thinking that was the right thing to do to claim full ownership of the vineyard, but sadly, what they thought was going to be to their advantage became their ruin. Accepting the Lordship of Christ as the heir to God's vineyard in our lives is very important. Allowing him to take his rightful position in our lives is the only way we can bear good fruits and be filled with what is true, noble, pure, worthy of praise and of course, virtuous; and it is the only way we can faithfully render a good account to the Lord. "God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see...God of hosts bring us back... and we shall not forsake you again!"

THE CHURCH IS OPEN:

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 7th October

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Int. Stephen Byrne R.I.P

Sunday 8th October

8:30am Barry Bunting

R.I.P.

10.15am Int. Agostina

Scola and Italia Santillo

R.I.P.

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 10th October

9:30am Int. Wellbeing

of Michael Horwood

Wed 11th October

9.30am Int. People of

the parish.

Thurs 12th October

9.30am

Friday 13th October

Saint Edward the

Confessor, King, Feast.

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 SEVENTH SUNDAY

Isaiah 5: 1-7 The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel.

Res Psalm: *The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.*

Philippians 4: 6-9 The God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 21:33-44 He will lease the vineyard to other tenants.

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.*

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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL – Harvest Collection at Masses this week.

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast. Donate to CAFOD today so that more families can get the expert help they need. **Use the envelope in church, the contactless machine, or you can give online at cafod.org.uk** Thankyou for your support.

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.

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: RED BOX 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. If you would be willing to help, 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, 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

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.

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/>

OTHER NOTICES

PRISON'S WEEK - 8th -14th OCTOBER 2023

We are asked to remember and pray this week for victims of crime and those who are affected by the criminal justice system. For more information, visit www.prisonadvice.org.uk/parish-support

Find out how you can help keep prisoners and their families in the hearts and minds of the whole parish.

Next Sunday, our 2nd Collection will go to support PACT, those who work with prisoners and their families. Envelopes will be available in the porch.

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 parishes, schools, and 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 or help organise a walk, please contact the parish office

Our 2nd Collection on Sunday 22nd October will be taken to support the work of Missio. 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

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, the Meeting Room is not free during this time.

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

This week, 17 children began the journey of preparation to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist - First Communion. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 1st October 2023

Envelopes: £68.40 Loose Plate: £44.20

Contactless: £41.00 Online banking: £815.50

2nd Collection: £67.25

Thatch Fund: £51.00

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

**This week's 2nd Collection Sunday 8th October:
CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY**

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,678.77 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.

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