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St. Francis de Sales Live Stream: www.churchservices.tvhartley

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Mass Book page 152

Some Reflections in Light of the Synod on Synodality - Summary

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I returned recently from the month-long Synod on Synodality in Rome, convened by our Holy Father Pope Francis to reflect on communion, participation, and mission in the Church's life. It was a remarkable journey, both engaging and exhausting, that led us forward on the way together – the Way who is the Lord Jesus himself, our Truth and our Life. (cf. Jn 14:6) I share with you a summary of my reflection on the Synod on Synodality available at <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk> Please take a moment to read it in full.

Taking place against the backdrop of war, we prayed for peace in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Sudan and elsewhere. We heard harrowing first-hand accounts of war from delegates. For me, meeting people from across the Universal Church, and hearing their experiences, was the most enriching and stimulating part of the Synod.

Our Archdiocese took part in the preparatory synodal process, demonstrating a deep love for the Lord Jesus and his Church, and a desire to be more hospitable and evangelising. This is something we do together, recognising both the distinctiveness and complementarity of those who share Christ's priesthood through baptism and those who share it through ordination. I took to the Synod the passion and energy the Archdiocese showed for enacting the evangelising mission entrusted to us by Christ.

Sincere sharing of human experiences, sometimes charged with emotion, highlighted a perceived tension between truth and love for those who may struggle to accept or live to the Church's teaching. How can we better include people who feel unwelcome? We need a patient openness to receiving people's experience. There is a caution, however, in setting human experience against divine revelation, received through Scripture and Tradition, as if it were somehow corrective of a now outdated deposit of faith. As Pope Francis reminded us, the Synod is not a parliament. Discernment is not a referendum on Church teaching, or a ballot where individuals vote according to what they believe the Holy Spirit is saying personally to them. Our faith is given to us through the Church in the Apostolic Tradition.

In his earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus was open to everyone. Through acts of healing and forgiveness, he never remained passive. (Continued overleaf)

THE CHURCH IS OPEN:

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 11th November

5:30pm Vigil Mass

People of the parish

Sunday 12th November

8:30am Requiem Mass
for the dead of the two
World Wars

10.15am Rose Parsons
Anniversary R.I.P

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 14th November

NO 9.30am Mass

11.30am Deanery Mass
for Deceased Clergy at
Swanley RC Church.

Wed 15th November

9.30am Spickett, Foster,
& Goodsell Families R.I.P.

Thurs 16th November

9.30am Vincent Regan
R.I.P (birthday) Jim,
Jonathan, and Lindsay
Regan R.I.P.

Friday 17th November

9.30am Deceased Shirley
and Reynolds Families.

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

He always offered a way forward. Not everyone could accept this – the rich young man (cf. Mk 10:17-22) left sorrowful. Others, like Zacchaeus (cf. Lk 19:1-10), transformed their lives. Christ never rejects us. He leaves us free to follow him or not.

We understand ourselves in the light of Christ's call to discipleship. The Gospel challenges us to accept Christ's invitation, finding in him a merciful and loving Saviour, especially as we face our own sinfulness. If we empty the Gospel of its challenge, adapting it to our own way of thinking, then we empty the Gospel of its power to save.

The Gospel teaches we cannot dislocate truth from love or love from truth. The Lord Jesus does, indeed, meet us where we are, but loves us too much to leave us there. The Church is called to welcome people with kindness and respect, sharing the truth and love of Christ and his Gospel. It is by encountering the Lord Jesus more deeply and personally that we grow in discipleship and service.

We continue to pray and discern what synodality means for our Archdiocese. I thank you all for your witness. We are one in faith, hope, and love, each of us with a unique part to play in loving Christ and serving him in others. May we share this responsibility passionately and joyfully in the harmony of the Holy Spirit. Be assured of my continued prayers and please pray for me.

Most Rev John Wilson Archbishop of Southwark

TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY

Wisdom 6: 12-16 Wisdom is found by those who look for her.

Psalms: *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.*

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.

Matthew 25: 1-13 The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.*

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 Fr Alphonsus or the parish office to arrange a visit.

PARISH NOTICES

NOVEMBER IS THE 'MONTH OF HOLY SOULS'.

In November, the Church asks us to remember and pray for all the Faithful Departed.

If you would like a loved one to be remembered during this month, please take one of the NOVEMBER HOLY SOULS envelopes in the church porch and fill in the details. Return the envelope to the presbytery at White Friars, or bring it when you come to Mass, as soon as possible please. All names will be listed in our Remembrance Book placed by the Altar during the month of November. Where an offering is made, Mass will be offered for those named. If you would like a specific date, please add this and we will try to accommodate.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2023 - REQUIEM MASS FOR THE DEAD OF TWO WORLD WARS - 8.30am.

We are also invited to attend the Remembrance Day Service at Hartley War Memorial on Sunday 12th November at 3pm to pray as one community for those who gave their lives in service during the World Wars.

DEANERY MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY

Each year, parishes of our Gravesend Deanery join together for Mass to remember and pray for all deceased Clergy and Religious. This year, our Mass will take place in Swanley Parish at The Church of the Apostles Sycamore Drive, Swanley BR87AY on Tuesday 14th November at 11.30am. We are all invited and are encouraged to attend this Mass.

MASS FOR ALL DECEASED PARISHIONERS

On Saturday 25th November at 12 noon, Mass will be offered for all our deceased parishioners and all those named in our Remembrance Book. We would like you to bring photos of your loved ones who have died and place them in front of the Altar as we continue to remember them and pray for them. Please do not place photographs of anyone not related to you in front of the altar without first seeking consent from their immediate family or relative. Thankyou for your consideration.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Any adult who does not receive Communion please do speak with the parish priest for guidance.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL 2023- 11/12th November

This is a Diocesan Second Collection that funds key areas of Ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Please be generous to this Appeal. Every gift is welcome. Find out more, or donate online: please visit www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishop-appeal.

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 Fr Alphonsus directly. As Mass Intentions are made public, please 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.'

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

'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/>

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.

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.

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024. Next Preparation Classes is Friday 17th November. Please ensure the children bring their Unit 3 work with them to class.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

Any young person in school year 8 or above 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 further.*

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 5th November 2023

Envelopes: £23.00 Loose Plate: £58.00

Contactless: Online banking: £452.50

2nd Collection: £46.00 Thatch Fund: £51.00

Thank you for your contributions to the parish.

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

This week's 2nd Collection: Diocesan Collection for Archbishop's Appeal - please see the notice in the newsletter and on the church Noticeboard

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,872.09 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.



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. All young parishioners are welcome members. 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.

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.

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