



Oratory of St. Francis de Sales Parish Newsletter 19th November 2023

*Roman Catholic Parish
Archdiocese of Southwark*

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

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A Mass Book page 155

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7)

This, the seventh annual World Day of the Poor, is a fruitful sign of the Father’s mercy and a support for the lives of our communities. As its celebration becomes more and more rooted in the pastoral life of the Church, it enables us to discover ever anew the heart of the Gospel. Our daily efforts to welcome the poor are still not enough. A great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity.

May our concern for the poor always be marked by Gospel realism. Our sharing should meet the concrete needs of the other, rather than being just a means of ridding ourselves of superfluous goods. Here too, Spirit-led discernment is demanded, in order to recognize the genuine needs of our brothers and sisters and not our own personal hopes and aspirations. What the poor need is certainly our humanity, our hearts open to love. Let us never forget that “we are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them” (EG, 198).

Faith teaches us that every poor person is a son or daughter of God and that Christ is present in them. “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40).

In her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, St Therese tells us: “I have come to realize that perfect charity means putting up with other people’s faults, not being at all taken aback by their faults, being edified by the smallest acts of virtue that we see practised. But above all, I have come to realize that charity must not remain locked in the depths of one’s heart: ‘No one’, Jesus says, ‘lights a candle to put it under a bushel basket, but puts it on a candle-stand, so that it can give light to everyone in the house’. For me, that candle represents the charity that must give light and bring joy not only to those dearest to me, but to *everyone* in the house, with the exception of none.”

May the steadfast love of Saint Therese stir our hearts on this World Day of the Poor, and help us not to “turn our face away from anyone who is poor”, but to keep it always focused on the human and divine face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN:

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 18th November

5:30pm Vigil Mass

Wilde and Searle families

Sunday 19th November

8:30am Mary Law

**10.15am Patrick Begley,
deceased Begley family**

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 21st November

Presentation of the BVM

9.30am Philip Endean SJ

Wed 22nd November

St. Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr

**9.30am Deceased of the
Fresquez, McDonagh and
Skelton families.**

Thurs 23rd November

**9.30am Deceased Okoli
family, Virginia Obioha**

Friday 24th November

St Andrew Dung-Lac &
Companions, Martyrs

**9.30am Deceased of the
Bicarregui and Welch
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

TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20, 30-31 A perfect wife who can find her?

Psalms: O blessed are those who fear the Lord

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6 Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.

Matthew 25: 14-30 You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness.

Communion Antiphon: *To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.*

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. 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

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.

NEXT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Will be on Saturday 25th November at 9am in the Jubilee Hall of Saint Mary Magdalene in Longfield.



St. Francis De Sales
Youth Mass
Year 4 and over
Sign up at church
Join us for
pizza
afterwards

Saturday 9th December
From 5.30pm to 8.30pm

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.'

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

'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. Those wishing to enrol for Sacramental programs should be registered parishioners, attending Mass.

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 Sundays at the 10.15am Mass. Please bring your child into the Meeting Room before Mass begins. In compliance with Safeguarding Guidelines, parents may not 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
Preparation Classes continue on alternate Fridays.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

Any young person in school Yr8 or above who would be interested in joining the program, please speak to Fr Alphonsus.

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. **RCIA Enquiry forms** are available in church or on the parish website. Please speak with Fr Alphonsus to discuss anything further.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION 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

RACIAL AND CULTURAL INCLUSION.

The Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion have produced their Special Edition Sixth Newsletter. Copies are available in the church porch. Or visit racialjusticecommission@rcaos.org.uk

CARITAS SOUTHWARK

CSAN, Caritas Social Action Network, have published some resources which can be used to help us reflect on the how we live out God's mission of bringing his love to all people, along with links that offer advice as the impact of the cost of living crisis continues. Copies are available in the church.

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Earlier in 2023, the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales published. 'Love the Stranger' - a reflection on the Church's teaching on welcoming and supporting refugees and migrant people as well as insight into the justice issues around migration. Some seminars are being piloted in two deaneries in the Archdiocese, and Caritas would like to offer these more widely. At a time when the public policy climate is chilling towards the reception of refugees and migrants, it is important to understand the issues but also the Church's guidance and insight.

REFUGEE HOSTING Do you have a spare room you could offer to a homeless asylum seeker, refugee or migrant in need? In Partnership with Housing Justice, Caritas is hosting an online information session for people interested in becoming a host on Wednesday 13th December 7.30-8.30pm. Please scan the QR code on the resource document to register for the event. Alternatively, email Caritas directly caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 5th November 2023

Envelopes: £66.50 Loose Plate: £39.50

Contactless: £15.00 Online banking: £506.50

2nd Collection: £81.00 Thatch Fund: £111.00

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: Caritas Southwark for World Day of the Poor - please see the notice in the newsletter and on the church Noticeboard

THATCH FUND

Funding raised £39,983.09 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.

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. 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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