



**Oratory of St. Francis de Sales** Parish Newsletter 5th 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](http://www.churchservices.tvhartley)**

**31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A** Mass Book page 149

Today being the 31st Sunday of ordinary time year A, we are reminded of the need to hold firm to the message of eternal life. This is what guarantees and safeguards our faith. Derailing from it or belittling it has its attendant consequences. On the other hand, if we abide by it we are rest assured that God will continue to strengthen us.

The readings today are a call to humility and holiness. The first reading demands that we listen to God and love one another. The psalm reminds us to find our peace and rest in God. The second reading tells us that we work to proclaim the Good News. And in the gospel, Jesus calls out those who lay heavy laws on others but do not practice what they preach.

Of course our experience shows that the power which comes with responsibility can be abused. And the greater the responsibility, the greater the capacity for abuse and corruption. The Pharisees in today's Gospel loved all the perks and honours of their vocation, but abused their authority, and burdened the people in their care. But Jesus' vision is profoundly liberating: a community primarily of brothers and sisters who thirst for the healing power of God's Word in their hearts, who dare to let themselves be transformed by Him, and to speak and act from the guidance of the Holy Spirit. From within this community people are called to the service which is leadership. St Augustine said, "For you I am a bishop; with you I am a Christian." Rooted in Christ rather in our own, often exhausted, strength, and knowing that God is our Father, we will be able both to listen and to lead, freed from fear and from the power games of fear.

It's easier said than done, of course. There will be tensions. We will make mistakes and need to receive and show mercy. The Pharisees didn't understand mercy. It means neither "one strike and you're out", nor just being "let off" - as the Pharisees so often let themselves off.

It is the work of God, our Father and King, who never breaks the bruised reed, but, stepwise, with infinite patience, and in far from ideal situations, transforms us through his Holy Spirit into the likeness of His Beloved Son.

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN:**

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

**Sat** 10:00am-6:30pm

**Sun** 7:45am-12noon

**SUNDAY MASS**

**Sat 4th November**

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

Pat and Jim Gregory RIP

**Sunday 5th November**

**8:30am** People of Parish

**10.15am** Barbara,  
Catherine & Cornelius  
Moran. R.I.P.

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tues 7th November**

*Dedication of Cathedral  
Church of St George.*

**9:30am RIP** Brillo family,  
David Eaton, Fely Agustin

**Wed 8th November**

**9.30am** David, Daniel &  
Mary Van Hesteren RIP

**Thurs 9th November**

*Dedication of The  
Lateran Basilica, Feast*

**9.30am** Mary and Les  
Dodd RIP

**Friday 10th November**

*St Leo the Great, Mem.*

**9.30am** Clifford Family,  
Mervyn Wheller R.I.P.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:hartleypcc@rcaos.org.uk)**

**Safeguarding representative: Judith Stephens**

**Email: [hartleysg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:hartleysg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)**

## TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY

**Malachi 1:14-22:2, 8-10** You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching

**Res Psalm:** *Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord*

**1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13** we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good news but our whole lives as well.

**Matthew 23: 1-12** They do not practice what they preach.

**Communion Antiphon:** *You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O 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

#### FR ALPHONSUS

Welcome back to Fr Alphonsus this weekend and our thanks and best wishes to Fr Pascoal as he returns to his parish, Our Lady of Gillingham.

#### 200 CLUB OCTOBER DRAW

Congratulations to winners: 1st prize £50 no. 122 Mary Halpin. 2nd Prize £25 no. 115 Jon Stephens.

#### KENT CHURCHES BIKE AND HIKE

This year's walk raised the magnificent sum of £805! Half of this sum will come to our own Parish. Well done to the walkers, and many thanks to all our generous sponsors. Thank you, Carol.

#### 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 which is 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 your request. Thankyou.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2023 MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED THE WEEKEND OF 12th NOVEMBER .

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.

### 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](http://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.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY – FOR CHILDREN IN YR-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, parents are not allowed to 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**

**- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024.** Please note, our Preparation Classes will resume after the term break on Friday 5th November. Please ensure the children bring their Unit 2 work with them to class. Thankyou

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024**

Any young person starting school year 8 or above in September 2023 and attending Mass regularly, 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 anything about RCIA.*

### **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

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



## **OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 29th October 2023**

Envelopes: £64.00 Loose Plate: £113.20

Contactless: £35.00 Online banking: £865.00

**2nd Collection: Maintenance £38.50**

**Thatch Fund: £141.00**

*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 Sunday 5th November:**

**Altar Flowers**

### **THATCH FUND**

**Funding raised £39,821.09 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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:hartley@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **ADULT CHOIR**

Thursdays at 7:30pm. New members are welcome  
Contact: Yvonne at [yhegarty@talktalk.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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