



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

**Parish Newsletter 14th January 2024**

**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](http://www.churchservices.tvhartley)**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (PEACE DAY) Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 127**

**FATHER ALPHONSUS ' TRANSFER FROM THE PARISH**

*It is extremely sad news that Father is leaving the Parish on the 30th January and we will miss him very much. We have been so lucky to have Father here and we should all show him how much we appreciate him in the small amount of time he has been with us and to wish him well. Therefore, there will be a Collection which starts this weekend and will continue and include the Collection at his leaving Mass on the 28th January 2024, when we will also celebrate the Feast Day of St Francis de Sales. This Mass will be a chance for us all to get together and thank Father for all that he has done for us, how much he means to us and how grateful we are for everything he has done and to wish him all the very best for the future.*

*Father has only been here for a Year and Four Months and it has been very enjoyable, and he has been very busy getting to know as many of us as possible and the various Parish Groups which he has also supported and recruited people for. He has always attended each event, has always been very friendly, sociable, approachable and interested in us all and worked hard for us all. He has tried to include everyone in Parish life and visited many of the sick and housebound of the Parish, which has been great.*

*For Fathers' Collection, there are many ways of Donating:*

1. *By using the Contactless Machine in the Foyer and click on "Father Alphonsus,"*
2. *By Bank Transfer using the usual Parish Account Details and the reference "Father Alphonsus."*

*Alternatively, you can collect a White Envelope in the Foyer, mark it for "Father Alphonsus" and return the Donation:*

- *In one of the Collection Baskets*
- *Hand the Donation in to the Presbytery*
- *Place the Donation into the big red Bucket.*

*All Funds will be combined and presented to Father before he leaves.*

*Please give generously and Thank you all.*

**Anna Coffey**

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN:**

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

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

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

**SUNDAY MASS**

**Sat 13th January**

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

**Sunday 14th January**

**8:30am** Int. Christine and Kevin Benner.

**10:15am** Int. People of the Parish

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tues 16th January**

**9:30am**

**Wed 17th January**

**9:30am** Int. Joy and Cyril Foster, deceased.

**Thurs 18th January**

**9:30am**

**Friday 19th January**

**9:30am**

**CONFESSIONS**

**Tues-Fri 8:45-9:20am**

**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)**

On this Peace Sunday, we pray for all who work, locally and internationally, for peace and justice; for all who will not be silent in the face of injustice or suffering; for all who take risks for peace. We ask God's blessing today especially on the work of the international Catholic peace movement, Pax Christi.

#### TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK

**1 Samuel 3: 3-10,19** Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

**Psalms:** *Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.*

**1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20** Your bodies are members making up the body of Christ.

**John 1: 35-42** They saw where he lived, and stayed with him.

**Communion Antiphon:** *You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

For Daily Prayers and Mass Readings online, visit <https://www.universalis.com>

#### 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.

#### 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*

#### PARISH NOTICES

##### FR CLEMENT ERU

**Fr Clement Eru CM, a priest of the Congregation of the Mission (The Vincentians) will be coming to Hartley as our new parish priest.** Fr Clement was Ordained on 12th August 2016 and is currently working at Sacred Heart RC church, Camberwell, London. I am sure we will all warmly welcome Fr Clement and fully support him as he settles into his new role as our parish priest.

#### PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**On Friday January 19th at 10.30am,** our parish will be hosting this year's Ecumenical *Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. All are welcome Please join us after the service for refreshments and a chance to chat. For catering purposes, please let Carol Wilton know if you will be attending. Email [carolwilton0@gmail.com](mailto:carolwilton0@gmail.com)

#### MEMORIAL OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES AND PARISH CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY JANUARY 28th

We will celebrate the Memorial of St Francis de Sales on Sunday 28th January with one parish Mass at 11.00am. Afterwards, we will gather for lunch from 12:00am – 3:00pm at Our Lady of Hartley School. All parishioners are invited and our hope is that everyone can come along at least for some time to celebrate together as a parish community and to say farewell to Fr Alphonsus.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR OUR PARISH LUNCH

All parish groups have been invited to assist in the preparations for our lunch. **If you are not a member of any parish group and you would like to assist in some way,** maybe by cooking a dish, helping to set things up in the hall or help with serving lunch, please contact the parish office for more details. Any help will be very gladly received. Thankyou.

#### CHILDREN'S LITURGY AND YOUTH GROUP.

To enable our Children's Liturgy and Youth Group to continue, **Victoria and Laura urgently need some adult volunteers to help them in their roles – you would not be asked to bear equal responsibility, just to assist.** Please speak with Fr Alphonsus and he will then put you in touch with Judith, our parish Safeguarding Rep, as all volunteers must first have completed a DBS Check for Ministry with Children/Youth Group in the Catholic Church. No experience is required and you will be guided through any necessary training.

#### DIOCESAN NOTICES

##### Southwark Spirituality Forum Zoom Meetings

If you are interested in spirituality, or perhaps have taken part in the Southwark Spirituality Lent and Advent online retreats and reflections in recent years, the Southwark Spirituality Commission has an exciting opportunity to share with all who live and work in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Existing members of the Commission wish to offer the possibility of creating a Spirituality Forum. The aim of the Forum is to create a space where those who share a passion for fostering prayer and spiritual growth among the people and parishes of the Archdiocese, can support each other.

**Two Zoom meetings will be held, to which all are welcome:** Tuesday 6th February, 7 pm - 8.30 pm  
Wednesday 7th February, 10 am - 11.30 am.

**To register, see Events** at [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

## #GivePrayerAGo

To mark the New Year and the Year of Prayer, as designated by the Holy Father, the Archdiocese of Southwark will be encouraging people to #GivePrayerAGo through an online campaign. Visit <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/faith/giveprayerago>

### **SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE - YOUTH DAY ON SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2024**

At Richard Challenor School, New Malden, for young people aged 10-14. 11 am to 6 pm.

Charge of £5 per child (£8 for families) to be paid on day. The day includes Catechesis, Lunch and Dinner, Football, Crafts. To book, please see the poster on the church noticeboard and use the QR Code or visit <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/youth-under-18/>

## 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 on the shelf in the porch, or on the parish website. Please also consider how you can support the parish with your time, talents and resources and then submit a *Sharing my Time & Talents* form, also found in the porch. **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 in the parish records as being parishioners. This is important especially if you wish to enrol for Sacramental programs.

### **ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB**

Membership for the 200 Club is open to anyone over 16yrs and costs £24 annually per draw number for the chance to win a prize each month. All necessary information & forms can be found in the church or on the parish website.

### **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.

## **'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. Please speak with Fr Alphonsus for any further advice. Those wishing to enrol for Sacramental programs should 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 Course.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

On Sundays at the 10.15am Mass, for children in YR-Y2. Please bring your child into the Meeting Room before Mass and remain with your child until both leaders have arrived. In compliance with Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines, no adults other than the leaders can remain in the room during this time. Thankyou for your consideration and support.

**SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION and EUCHARIST**  
Class takes place on Fridays 3.30-4.30pm.

### **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

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

### **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 for further information, thankyou.

### **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 2024.**

**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 people become Catholic. Please speak to the priest for more details.

### **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.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS 7th January 2024

Envelopes: £60.00 Loose Plate: £89.50

Contactless: £37.00 Online banking: £725.00

2nd Collection: £91.30 Crib £44.50

Thatch Fund: £53.15

*Thank you for your contributions to the parish.*

Please check that your GA number with the correct Date & Collection name are noted on your envelope. Thankyou

### **THIS WEEK'S 2nd COLLECTION 14th JANUARY:**

#### **PAX CHRISTI**

#### **THATCH FUND**

Funding raised: **£40,664.97** 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)

#### **'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) Thanks for your support!**

**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. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thankyou



## **'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. Please consider setting up a Monthly Bank Standing Order. This is most helpful to the parish for budgeting and planning projects.

### **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 envelopes
- (vi) Online transaction to Nat West Bank Account St Francis de Sales Acc: 34143580 S.C. 60-06-33.

## **PARISH GROUP MEETINGS**

### **YOUTH GROUP**

All young parishioners are welcome members. Contact: Laura Bourne via [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. New members very welcome. 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. The CWC will NOT be meeting in January, but do hope to resume in February. Thankyou.

### **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

We have a small, friendly group whose members can visit to chat or just to lend a listening ear. 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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