



**Oratory of St. Francis de Sales**

*Roman Catholic Parish*

*Archdiocese of Southwark*

**Parish Newsletter 21st January 2024**

**White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW**

**Tel: 01474705361 Email [hartley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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)**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B *Sunday of the Word of God* Mass Book page 129**

**FR ALPHONSUS' TRANSFER FROM THE PARISH**

*Just a reminder to you all that we are collecting contributions for the parish's Leaving Gift to Fr Alphonsus. This started last weekend and everyone will be able to give their contribution to the gift at any Mass, up to and including a Collection at Father's leaving Mass on the 28th January when the Parish have a chance to all come together and thank Father for being our Parish Priest and for all he has done for us, even though it has only been for a very short amount of time. This Mass will also celebrate the Feast Day of St Francis de Sales.*

*You can give your Personal Gift for Father via the Parish in various ways:*

- 1. By using the Contactless Machine selecting Father Alphonsus,*
- 2. By Bank Transfer reference Father Alphonsus*
- 3. Take a White Envelope and leave it in the Collection Basket with the 1st or 2nd Collection, hand it in to the Presbytery or hand it to Anna Coffey.*

*All monies collected for Father will be combined and given to Father before he leaves on 30th January 2024.*

*Father has been a real asset to the Parish whilst he has been here. He has always been very approachable, friendly and worked hard to support us all and the Parish. Father really deserves to know how much he has meant to us, how he is very much appreciated and how much we have enjoyed having him here and therefore I encourage you all to please give generously.*

*Should anyone wish to say a few personal words about Father at Father's Leaving Mass / the Feast Day Mass and Celebration, please contact Anna Coffey who will arrange for this to happen. Anna Coffey*

**FEAST OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH CELEBRATION LUNCH - HELP NEEDED**

**We will have ONE parish Mass next weekend, Sunday 28th January at 11.00am**  
**Afterwards, lunch will be served between 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 of the time to celebrate together as a parish community and to say farewell to Fr Alphonsus.

***If you can assist in some way maybe by cooking something, getting things ready in the school hall or serving lunch, please contact the parish office by Tuesday, to help our planning. Any help will be gratefully received, thank you.***

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN:**

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

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

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

**SUNDAY MASS**

**Sat 20th January**

**5:30pm Vigil Mass**

*Int. People of the Parish*

**Sunday 21st January**

**8:30am**

**10:15am Jacqueline**

*Rons R.I.P. Anniversary.*

*William Rons w/being.*

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tues 23rd January**

**9:30am**

**Wed 24th January**

*St. Francis de Sales.*

**9:30am**

**Thurs 25th January**

*Conversion of St. Paul*

**9:30am Int. Jim Regan,**

*Anniversary. R.I.P.*

**Friday 26th January**

*Sts Timothy & Titus Bishops*

**9:30am**

**Saturday 27th January**

**No Mass at 5.30pm**

**Sunday 28th January**

**No Mass at 8.30am**

**CONFESSIONS**

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

*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)**

## **THIS SUNDAY IS 'SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD'**

The Bible isn't always the easiest book to get your head around but it's definitely worth it! The Bible was written for you. By reading it, you can let God's Word become a part of your life. You don't need to read lots of the Bible for it to have an impact. Sometimes, just a few words or one sentence can transform your life. So start by reading small amounts regularly and use our 10 Key points to help you enjoy the Scriptures:

- 1. Pray before you start reading the Bible.**
- 2. Learn how to find your way around.**
- 3. Appreciate the variety of what's in the Bible.**
- 4. Don't skip the 'first series' – the Old Testament.**
- 5. Understand how truth is expressed in the Bible.**
- 6. Explore the different senses of Scripture.**
- 7. Interpret the Bible using the three Golden Rules**
  - (1) Pay attention to the unifying theme of the Bible, which is to reveal God to us.*
  - (2) Read Scripture within the context of the living tradition of the Church.*
  - (3) Compare any passage with what other parts of the Bible have to say on the subject.*
- 8. Listen to what the Bible has to say about itself.**
- 9. Recognise the Bible as food for your soul.**
- 10. Read the Bible with other people and share ideas. St Bernard of Clairvaux: 'The Word of God is a living bread, the food of the soul...'**

Visit [www.godwhospeaks.uk](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk) for more resources

## **MASS TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK - THIRD SUNDAY**

**Jonah 3:1-5,10** The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour.

**Psalms:** *Lord, make me know your ways*

**1 Corinthians 7: 29-31** The world as we know it is passing away

**Mark 1: 14-20** Repent, and believe the Good News

**Communion Antiphon:** *Look toward the Lord and be radiant, let your faces not be abashed.*

**For Daily Prayers and 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**

### **NEW PARISH PRIEST- FR CLEMENT ERU**

**Fr Clement Eru CM, a priest of the Congregation of the Mission (The Vincentians) will be coming to Hartley on 30th January to take up his position 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.

### **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.

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

**The January Draw will take place on Friday 26th January after the 9.30am Mass.** 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.

## **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.

#### **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 14th January 2024

Envelopes: £49.00 Loose Plate: £28.70

Contactless: £15.00 Online banking: £312.50

2nd Collection: £83.95

Thatch Fund: £35.05

*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 21st JANUARY: SPUC - White Flower Appeal**

#### THATCH FUND

Funding raised: **£40,700.02** 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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