



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

Parish Newsletter 28th January 2024

White Friars Church Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8DW

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Web: <http://saintfrancisdesales.org.uk>

StFrancisDeSalesHartley

[sfdhartley](https://twitter.com/sfdhartley) [sfdhartley](https://www.instagram.com/sfdhartley)

<https://tinyurl.com/vc7w838m>



This parish is served by the Spiritans

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B *Racial Justice Sunday* Mass Book page 132

FR ALPHONSUS' TRANSFER FROM THE PARISH

The Parish are coming together on Sunday 28th January at 11.00am to celebrate the Feast Day of St Francis de Sales, and as this will be Fr Alphonsus' leaving Mass, also to say a very big Thank You for all that he has done for us and it goes without saying that we want to wish him all the very best in the future.

As Father is sadly leaving on Tuesday 30th January 2024, this is just to remind you all that if you haven't already contributed towards Fathers' Leaving Gift, you can still do so this weekend.

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 hand it in to the Presbytery or to Anna Coffey.
4. Take a White Envelope and leave it in the 2nd Collection Basket on Sunday

All monies will be combined and given to Father before he leaves.

Father also deserves an extra-large Thank you from us all, as he has secured £20,000.00 from the Diocese Grants Scheme for the Thatch Fund which means we can now make every effort to proceed with getting the Thatch replaced. This is fantastic news and we as a parish are extremely grateful and will never forget the effort Father has made to obtain these much-needed Funds.

However, alongside our Thatch Roof project, there are other works to be considered. The flat roof over the Confessional is now beyond repair and must be replaced and the roof windows in both the church, and the meeting room especially, also need renewing. **We are therefore relying on your continued generous support to raise funds for these other works, thank you all so much.**

Should anyone wish to say a few personal words about Father at Mass on Sunday, or at the Celebration, please contact Anna Coffey who is arranging this.

PARISH LUNCH THIS SUNDAY 28th JANUARY 12-3pm AT OLOH SCHOOL

We hope that you will be able to join us in the school hall after Mass for our Feast day celebration lunch and to say our farewells to Fr Alphonsus. **We need more volunteers to set up, prepare & serve lunch/refreshments, and tidy up afterwards. If you can help, please confirm this with the parish office. Please bring any food to the school, or arrive to help, by 9.30am Sunday, Thankyou!**

THE CHURCH IS OPEN:

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

Sat 10:00am-6:30pm

Sun 7:45am-12noon

SUNDAY MASS

Sat 27th January

5:30pm No Mass

Sunday 28th January

8:30am No Mass

Sunday 28th January

Mass at 11.00am Int.

People of the Parish.

WEEKDAY MASS

Tues 30th January

NO MASS

Wed 31st January

St John Bosco, Priest

9:30am Int. Fr

Clement Eru

Thurs 1st February

9:30am

Friday 2nd February

The Presentation of

the Lord, Candlemas.

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 (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

ST FRANCIS DE SALES

St. Francis de Sales was bishop of Annecy in the duchy of Savoy and a renowned spiritual director in the early seventeenth century.

In 1609, he published the *Introduction to the Devout Life* as a guide for the ordinary person, offering a way of living a holy (devout) life in the midst of the world. His message was welcomed by many who loved the Lord and wanted to follow the gospel message but whose responsibilities prevented them from leaving the world and entering a monastery. They found in his teaching a way to be holy while living their busy daily lives.

At some point in our life, as people who believe in God, we wrestle with a relationship with God.

As in any relationship, the ultimate question arises: "Does God love me?"

Toward the end of his *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Francis de Sales offers a response to our question:

"Before our Lord Jesus Christ as man suffered on the Cross for you, his Divine Majesty by his sovereign goodness already foresaw your existence and loved and favored you.

When did his love for you begin? It began when he began to be God. When did he begin to be God? Never, for he has been forever, without beginning and without end. So also he has loved you from all eternity and for this reason he has prepared for you all these graces and favors.

Hence he speaks to you as well as to others when he says by the prophet, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you, taking pity on you." (Jer. 31.3)"

'To ensure that the saints pray and intercede for us, we must invoke them and ask their help. The best way to celebrate their feasts is to realize the power they have with God for obtaining the graces of which we stand in need.

Our Lord is so pleased when we profit from the intercession of the saints that, wishing to bestow on us some favor, He often inspires us to seek their mediation and invites us to ask them to pray for us.

With full confidence we should seek their help and turn to them, especially on their feast days, without doubting for a moment that they will listen to us and will obtain for us what we are asking'

St. Francis de Sales, pray for us

MASS TEXTS FOR THIS WEEK - FOURTH SUNDAY

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.

Psalms: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1 Corinthians 7: 32– 35 An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy.

Mark 1: 21-28 He taught them with authority

Communion Antiphon: *Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame for I call on you.*

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

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 Tuesday 30th January to take up his position as our new parish priest. Fr Clement's first Mass will be on Wednesday 31st January at 9.30am. I am sure we will all warmly welcome Fr Clement and fully support him as he settles into Hartley and his new role as our parish priest.

VISITING THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

If you or someone in your family is housebound and would like a priest to visit, please contact the parish priest or the parish office to arrange a visit.

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 the parish priest and he will then put you in touch with the parish Safeguarding Representative, Judith Stevens, 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. Please consider helping.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES 200 CLUB

January Draw winners: 1st prize £50 no. 150

A. Dabner. 2nd prize £25 no. 48 V. Chaney

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

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. **Our 2nd Collection next weekend will go to support the work of The Catholic Association for racial Justice.** Thankyou for your support.

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 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 may not otherwise show in the parish records as being parishioners. Please check with the parish office to confirm.

MASS INTENTIONS

Please take one of the 'Mass Intention' envelopes from the table in the porch, fill in the details and return it to the parish priest directly.

As all Masses are livestreamed, Intentions are made public, therefore please seek consent from any living person or one of their family members before submitting an intention for them. 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 is made through the parish priest.

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 note, there will be **NO Children's Liturgy this week, Sunday 28th January.**

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)

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. Likewise, if you have received the Sacraments of Initiation and would like to learn more about the Faith, you are welcome to join the meetings. Please speak to the parish priest if you would like to discuss anything regarding RCIA.

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 21st January 2024

Envelopes: £44.00 Loose Plate: £60.25

Contactless: £15.00 Online banking: £555.50

2nd Collection: £59.40

Thatch Fund: £45.20

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

ON SUNDAY, WE WILL HAVE A COLLECTION FOR FR. ALPHONSUS' LEAVING GIFT, AFTER THE FINAL PRAYER. PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR GIFT-AID ENVELOPES FOR THIS COLLECTION. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

THATCH FUND

Funding raised: £40,745.22 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 You can also donate via our parish Justgiving page at 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** 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

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. New members very welcome. Contact: William Rons 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. **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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