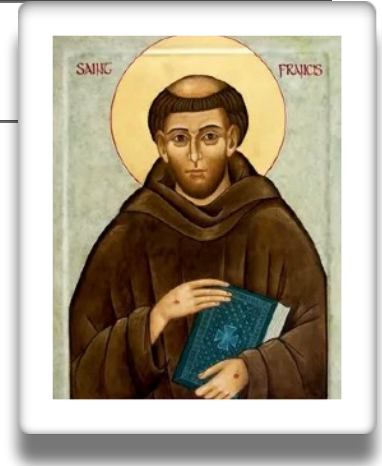


ST FRANCIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER



St Francis Parish Halstead online:

<http://stfrancishalstead.org/home/welcome/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Stfrancishalsteadparish/>

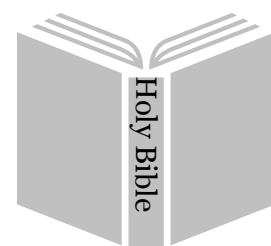
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Intentions</u>
Saturday 19th November	6pm Halstead Vigil Mass	
Sunday 20th November	9am Sible Hedingham	Intention: Eternal repose of Our November list
“ “	11 am Halstead	Intention: Eternal repose of Patrick Kelly
Monday 21st November	NO MASS	
Tuesday 22nd November	NO MASS	
Wednesday 23rd November	NO MASS	
Thursday 24th November	NO MASS	
Friday 25th November	Eucharistic Devotion/ Benediction 8.30 and Mass @ 9.30	Funeral Mass for Patrick Francis Flynn @ 11am Funeral Mass of Jennie Powell @2.30 pm.

Mass readings

First reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Second reading: Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43





A message from Father Felix

- **Parish Facebook**
The Parish has a Facebook page that gets updated daily with Mass Readings and other items of information.
<https://www.facebook.com/Stfrancishalsteadparish/>
- **Our First Communion Catechism Classes for 2022/23 will commence on Sunday 4th of December 2022 with a welcome Mass at 11am. Our first meeting at the presbytery will be on Saturday 10th December at 10am.**
- **This Sunday, we shall be taking a second collection for the National Youth ministry.**
- **Next Sunday is our Parish Bazaar. Please come and support us.**
- **This Sunday, we shall be taking a second collection for Youth ministry in the diocese**
- **Remember to pick a Christmas card from Fr Felix at the door. It**

contains our Advent/ Christmas services and times.

We remember our parishioner **Patrick Francis Flynn** who died on 18th October. Funeral Mass will be at St Francis Halstead on Friday 25 November at 11.00 am. And also **Jennie Powell who died on 7th November. Funeral Mass is at 2.30 pm on Friday November 25.** Let us keep them and their families in prayer at this sad time.

- It is wholesome thought to pray for the dead 2 Maccabees 12:46. Consider offering a Mass for you departed loved ones and also for the living. It seems the culture of offering Masses in our parish is fading. Pick a form at the back of the church and fill your intentions
- There is a chance for communion of the sick at homes for the house bound. Let me know of any parishioner in need of a

CHRIST THE KING

visit. Same for any parishioner on hospital admission at Broomfield hospital.

- Please consider making an offering or a standing order to the parish. You can also make donation to St Francis of Assisi Church. Sort Code: 40-13-22. Account Number: 71387014
 - Weekly Sunday Collection: **£365.06**
 - Candles /Votive: **£22.30**
 - Sible Coffee: **£13.10**
 - Many thanks for your generosity to the parish.
 - The Holy Water font is now open for our use. **Take some home for your use from the tap. Please let Fr Felix know before use. Feel free to bless yourself from the Holy Water font** however, sanitise your hand before use to minimise risk of possible infection.
- For your Diary**
- Youth Club every last Saturday of the month. Next one will be in the new year.

- **Our First Communion Catechism Classes for 2022/23 will commence on Sunday 4th of December 2022 with a welcome Mass at 11am. Our first meeting at the presbytery will be on Saturday 10th December at 10am.**



Father Felix

The Church - all of us - must strip herself of the worldliness that leads to vanity, to pride: that is idolatry"

Pope Francis

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

If you would like to get involved or to offer help, please let Father know. We would welcome new parishioners in this major fund raising event of the year.

Any goods, bottles, bric a brac etc please leave at the back of church or give to Father Felix.

If you can make cakes, sausage roles, etc please let Pat or Shanaz know. They would welcome any cash contribution towards ingredients.

Alex will welcome sweet and savoury, but no hot food, for the refreshments kitchen.

Please return raffle stubs and money to-

Cyril in Halstead and Mary in Hedingham

Dates

Saturday 26th November 5-7pm

Setting up in St Andrews Hall- help needed.

Sunday 27th November 10.30 - 3pm

CHRIST THE KING

Are you looking for work? Click on this box to see if working for the church may be possible - this site is constantly updated

Top Tips for Mental Health

Talk to someone - ask them questions and listen carefully to their answers

November Monthly Draw Winners

£50 Ian Hunt - 115

£25 Fleur Reeves - 197

£25 Shirley Wood - 9

Christmas Lunch



The annual Christmas Lunch will be held at Lynda's on Sunday 18th December commencing at 1pm.

Numbers are limited so it's first come, first served - please give your names to Lynda asap. Cost is £10 per head = three home cooked courses, raffle, games, singalong, etc

Mass @ 11.00 am St Francis of Assisi – Before Mass each Saturday @ 5.15 pm The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Parish Rosary at 5:30, (Please contact Fr Felix directly to book a date/time for reconciliation)
(Tel 01787 472477 / halstead@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

St Francis of Assisi Parish Retreat

The Parish Retreat was held in the Tapestry Room at Hedingham Castle. The Castle was built between 1142 and 1152 by the de Vere family who had received the land as a reward for supporting William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings.

The Retreat started with a Mass - Fr Felix having the honour of celebrating the first Catholic Mass in the Castle since around 1536. It really was a unique occasion.

Fr Felix set the scene by talking about St Francis - we learned about his early life, his "calling" to a religious life and how his legacy helps us to value our own community as Christians in the 21st century.

The Retreat was attended by 34 people who had the opportunity to participate in a Lectio Divina activity led by Sr Frances Moore. The focus of our "divine reading" was the creation story from Genesis and our role as stewards of our planet. The positivity of the creation story was contrasted by looking at a series of slides

that illustrated how we had impacted - sometimes negatively - on our planet.

Pope Francis has highlighted our responsibilities for "caring for our common home" in his encyclical "Laudato Si" and, with this in mind, we discussed what we could do as individuals and as a Parish to pursue these aims. Some suggestions that were put forward included:

Reducing the amount of paper used - we have already made some progress in this respect with the use of Facebook to update information daily and with an emailed newsletter.

Using some of the presbytery / Church grounds to create a wildflower garden and possibly even a vegetable patch. Perhaps we could create an area for composting.

Looking at our energy use (at home and in our Church) - this would have a double benefit of helping, in a small way, with energy conservation but also Parish financial costs. Could we "unplugged" ourselves for a day ... on TV, computer games, etc?

Encouraging people to make greater use of recycling - especially things such as glass, plastics and those items collected by our Council.

Trying to spend less on "new" clothes and supporting our Parish by making use of our jumble sales, buying "pre-loved" and use of charity shops. Could you avoid buying new clothes for a whole year? Similarly "up-cycling" things such as furniture and other household items. There are many opportunities for us to buy environmentally friendly products - although there was an awareness that, sadly, sometimes these may be more expensive, e.g. cleaning products.

Having a weekly "meat free" day (remember that traditionally Catholics had a meat free / fish Friday). Could we "donate" some money, e.g. to our Missio Red Box charity, on days we abstained from meat?

Could we be involved in collecting for the local food bank and join, with our

Churches Together in Halstead partners, to help in this respect.

We were also given helpful suggestions to support our mental health - as individuals and as a community. Recognition of the impact the pandemic has had on people, along with worries about finance and the cost of living, was highlighted. Providing support for people - in person or even by a phone call - was seen as an important function. Encouraging people to recognise their own worries, and those of others, was important and seeking that support when necessary was a big help. Family, friends, trusted professionals and local and national organisations could all be a source of support. As a Catholic Christian community we can find some comfort through prayer, scriptural reading, (Psalms was highly recommended), and knowing that we are a caring and compassionate community.