

ST FRANCIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER



St Francis Parish Halstead online:
<http://stfrancishalstead.org/home/welcome/>

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@brcdt.org).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Intentions</u>
Saturday 30th March Easter Vigil	6pm Vigil Mass	Health and wellbeing of Leah Westley
Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday	9am Mass Sible Hedingham	Wellbeing of All
Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Health for the sick
Monday 1st April Easter Monday	No Mass	
Tuesday 2nd April	No Mass	
Wednesday 3rd April	No Mass	
Thursday 4th April	No Mass	
Friday 5th April	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament @8.30am, Mass @9.30am.	



First reading: Acts 10: 34-43

Second reading: Colossians 3: 1-4

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

Sanctuary light prayer
 intention for health and
 wellbeing of all¹

The Parish has a Facebook page that gets updated daily with Mass Readings and other items of information.

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

- This weekend, we shall be making a collection for our parish clergy support. Please return the envelopes at Mass and thank you for all your love and support to me and the parish.
- I wish to thank all who assisted in the Holy week activities.
- I wish everyone a blessed and Happy Easter.
- If you recently joined our parish, we would like to have your name registered in our records. Please pick a form at the back, fill it and return to me or drop at the back of the Church.
- It will be nice for you to identify with an aspect of our parish life by committing your time and resources to the good of our parish. We need reinforcements in our volunteer team. If you would like to join our Extra ordinary ministers of the Holy Eucharist, please speak to Fr Felix.
- We still need fresh readers at Mass, fundraising team and social organisers, Church cleaners and gardening and youth club organisers. If you can, please help us.
- It is wholesome thought to pray for the dead (2 Maccabees 12:46.) Consider offering a Mass for your 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 visit.
- It costs approximately £3.000 monthly to run our parish. 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

- The sanctuary light sponsorship for 2024 is open for everyone to participate. You can donate £5.00 for our weekly prayers for your intentions. Many thanks to those who signed up last year.
- Weekend collection: £397.00
- Candle & votive : £9.65
- Mass intentions for March: 60.00
- 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 on 27th April at 11am at the church Hall.



Father Felix Adiele

Why does the resurrection of Jesus Christ matter?

Firstly, the resurrection serves as irrefutable proof of Jesus' divinity. By rising from the dead, Jesus demonstrated His power over death and the grave, proving that He is the Son of God. This miraculous event confirms the truth of His teachings and validates the claims made about Him. The resurrection provides believers with hope and assurance of eternal life. For Christians, the resurrection is a promise that death is not the end. It offers a glimpse of the life to come and the promise of salvation for those who believe in Jesus. This hope sustains believers in times of hardship and suffering. The resurrection serves as a source of inspiration and encouragement. The resurrection demonstrates that even when all seems lost, there is always hope for renewal and new beginnings. It inspires believers to persevere in their faith and reminds them that God is ever-present, even in the darkest times. The resurrection has had a profound impact on the world. It has inspired countless works of art, literature, and music, enriching our cultural heritage. The teachings of Jesus, rooted in the resurrection, have shaped the values and beliefs of countless individuals, influencing the course of history in countless ways. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a crucial event that holds immense significance for believers and the world at large. It serves as proof of Jesus' divinity, provides hope for eternal life, inspires perseverance, and enriches our cultural heritage. The resurrection is a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of faith, love, and redemption.

Contributions to the raffle prizes for the quiz night needed!

Lynda has asked for raffle prizes to be given to Mary or Father Felix - these should be quality items, not jumble! If you have a bottle of single malt whisky, a bottle of champagne, an unopened, unwanted Christmas present like a bread maker or food processor, these would make ideal prizes!

Gift Aid
The Gift Aid envelopes for the new tax year will be ready for collection at Sible this Sunday and then at Halstead from the Easter weekend.
And if you're currently paying tax in the UK and would like to sign up for Gift Aid then that would be wonderful,
Remember there's no obligation to pay a certain amount or anything but the Parish will get an extra 25% on the total of your donations over the year.
Simply put your name and address on one of the declaration forms at the back and I can give you a set of envelopes.
It's a really important source of income for the Parish - as an example we'll receive just under £5,000 this year from Gift Aid - something essential to keep the Parish running and thriving.
Many thanks indeed to all those who are already in the scheme.

Ben

First Holy Communion 2024
 We decided that the focus for our session was to look at the importance of The Body and Blood of Christ - our Communion Service. We started with our Opening Prayer, read by Audrey, and the other group members joined in.

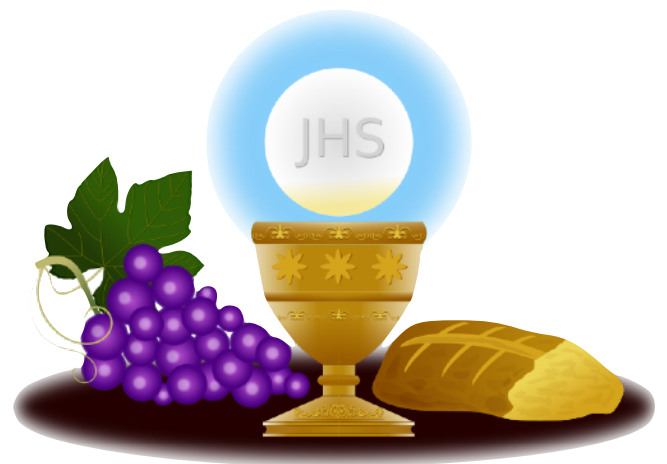
As a "Starter" activity we looked at some "Special" Occasions Birthdays, Weddings, Christmas and how, often, these events are associated with a "Special" meal - As part of the session we decided to look at the story of The Last Supper and how Jesus shared a meal with his Disciples. This gave us a chance to have our own Passover Meal and we had our own Seder Plate - the children were able to try Matzos, Haroseth, roasted lamb, bitter herbs ... and Ribena as a substitute for wine. The meal was supported by a short video that showed the children how a family would celebrate The Passover - Ronnie, as the youngest, found the hidden Matzos and shared it with the others (and "won" a prize for finding the hidden piece of unleavened bread). All this gave us a chance to go through the format of our Liturgy of the Eucharist and its significance in our Mass. The children appreciated our "Special" meal and how we, as Catholic communicants, share the Body and Blood of Christ and that

there is a "Real Presence" in our Communion.

A really big thank you to the children for their involvement, interest and questions and to Matipa for reading our Closing Prayer.

A copy of the resources we used will be emailed out so you have a record of what we've been covering.

Miriam, Nigel & Fr Felix



SPRING JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 20th April

We welcome your donations for the jumble, but please do not leave outside the church or in the porch.

Ask Father or Mary to open the shed to take your jumble into store.

HELPERS

Would you like to help the team raise money for the church. Please call 07702244880, or speak to Lynda about helping at events

Medjugorje Web
 medjugorje.org

