

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 20th April	6pm Vigil Mass	Vocations to the priesthood and religious and family life
Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday in Easter Good Shepherd Sunday	9am Mass Sible Hedingham	Health and healing of Jill Salmon
Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday in Easter Good Shepherd Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Those training for the priesthood
Monday 22nd April	No Mass	Sanctuary light prayer intention for Birthday Blessings on Van Dulken
Tuesday 23rd April St George, patron saint of England	No Mass	<i>It's St Georges Day 23rd April</i> 
Wednesday 24th April St Fidelis	No Mass	
Thursday 25th April St Mark	No Mass	
Friday 26th April	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 am and Mass @9.30am.	
	<p><u>First reading: Acts 4: 8-12</u></p> <p><u>Second reading: 1 John 3: 1-12</u></p> <p><u>Gospel: John 10: 11-18</u></p>	



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 taking a second collection for the promotion of vocations. Please support the Missions.
- The first meeting of the Parish men's group is holding next Saturday 4th May at 7.30 pm. I invite all the men in the parish for a social evening at the Church Hall.
- 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.

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- 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: £379.69
- Candle & votive : £20.72
- 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

St. Mark is believed to be John Mark, a companion of the apostles Peter and Paul in the early Christian church. He is traditionally regarded as the author of the Gospel of Mark, one of the four canonical gospels in the New Testament of the Bible. According to Christian tradition, Mark was a follower of Peter and wrote down Peter's teachings and accounts of Jesus' life, which became the basis for the Gospel of Mark. Mark is also said to have traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journeys and later became the bishop of Alexandria, where he was martyred in 68 AD. He is often depicted in art as a lion, which is also the symbol of the city of Venice, where his relics are said to be buried.



Jumble Sale

This great fundraiser will be held in the Church Hall this Saturday, arrive at 10:00, loads of bargains to be had -all proceeds go to the upkeep of the church and assisting in the Christian witness in Halstead and Sible Hedingham



The first meeting of the men's fellowship will be in the Church Hall on May 4th at 7:30 - we'd love to see you there!

Cyril of Alexander, a 5th century church father comments on Jesus as our Good Shepherd:

"He shows in what manner a shepherd may be proved good; and He teaches that he must be prepared to give up his life fighting in defence of his sheep, which was fulfilled in Christ. For man has departed from the love of God, and fallen into sin, and because of this was, I say, excluded from the divine abode of paradise, and when he was weakened by that disaster, he yielded to the devil tempting him to sin, and death following that sin he became the prey of fierce and ravenous wolves. But after Christ was announced as the True Shepherd of all men, *He laid down his life for us* (1 John 3:16), fighting for us against that pack of inhuman beasts.

"He bore the Cross for us, that by His own death he might destroy death. He was condemned for us, that He might deliver all of us from the sentence of punishment: the tyranny of sin being overthrown by our faith: fastening to the Cross the decree that stood against us, as it is written (Colossians 2:14). Therefore as the father of sin had

as it were shut up the sheep in hell, giving them to death to feed on, as it is written in the psalms (Ps. Xlviii.16), He died for us as truly Good, and truly our Shepherd, so that the dark shadow of death driven away He might join us to the company of the blessed in heaven; and in exchange for abodes that lie far in the depths of the pit, and in the hidden places of the sea, grant us mansions in His Father's House above. Because of this he says to us in another place: *Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you a kingdom* (Luke 12:32)."



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