

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 27th April	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday in Easter	9am Mass Sible Hedingham	Eternal repose of Helen Emma Funnell
Sunday 28th April Fourth Sunday in Easter	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of Zita Falla
Monday 29th April St Catherine of Sienna	No Mass	Sanctuary light prayer intention for health and wellbeing of Pat Jeffcott and family
Tuesday 30th April St Pius V, Pope	No Mass	
Wednesday 1st May St Joseph the worker	No Mass	
Thursday 2nd May St Athanasius, Bishop	No Mass	
Friday 3rd May St Philip & St James	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 am and Mass @9.30am.	



First reading: Acts 9: 26-31

Second reading: 1 John 3: 18-24

Gospel: John 15: 1-8

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

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

- Next Sunday at 11am Mass, we shall be welcoming the candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. May we keep them in our prayers.
- A gentle reminder that the maiden parish Men's fellowship meeting will be on Saturday 4th of May at 7pm at the 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. Sort Code: 40-13-22. Account Number: 71387014

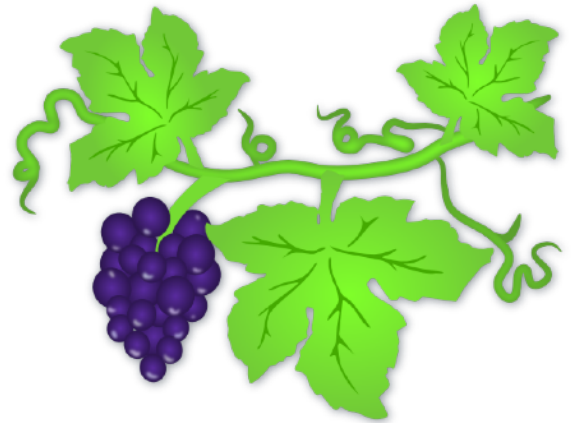
- The sanctuary light sponsorship for 2024 is open for everyone to participate. You can donate £5.00 for our weekly prayers for your intentions. Many thanks to those who signed up last year.
- Weekend collection: £358.74
- Candle & votive : £9.70
- 2nd collection for promotion of vocation: £223.65
- 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:
Solemnity of Ascension on 9th of May :
Mass at 6pm



Father Felix Adiele

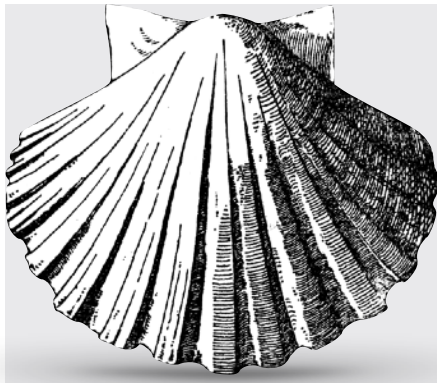
I I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser. 2 Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done

for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”



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!

St. James is important for several reasons. Firstly, he was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ and was the first of the apostles to be martyred. His martyrdom symbolises the ultimate sacrifice for one's faith. Secondly, he is the patron saint of Spain, and his remains are believed to be buried in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. This has made the city an important pilgrimage site for Christians, with the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route drawing thousands of visitors each year. Lastly, St. James is also associated with the legend of the Holy Grail, which is said to have been brought to Spain by his followers, further enhancing his significance in religious and historical contexts.



People go to Santiago de Compostela for various reasons, but the primary one is religious pilgrimage. Since the 9th century, Christians have been making the journey to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, which is believed to house the remains of St. James the

Apostle. The pilgrimage, known as the Camino de Santiago, is seen as a spiritual journey for many, allowing them to reflect on their faith, seek forgiveness, or simply connect with a higher power. Additionally, the Camino has also become popular among non-religious individuals who undertake the journey for personal growth, cultural experiences, or sometimes to just challenge themselves physically.

