

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 18th May St John I, Pope	6pm Vigil Mass	Wellbeing of all parishioners
Sunday 19th May Pentecost Sunday	9am Mass Sible Hedingham	Mass intention: Health and healing of the sick
Sunday 19th May Pentecost Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Mass intention: Eternal repose of Ann Vermilio.
Monday 20th May Mary, Mother of the Church, St Bernadine of Siena	No Mass	Sanctuary light prayer intention for healing and wellbeing of the sick
Tuesday 21st May Ss Christopher Magallanes & Companions	No Mass	
Wednesday 15th May St Rita	No Mass	
Thursday 16th May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest	No Mass	
Friday 17th May	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 am and Mass @9.30am.	



First reading: Acts 2: 1-11

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 3-7

Gospel: John 20: 19-23



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

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

- We shall be having a joint Parish pastoral and Finance Council meeting on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at the 7pm at the presbytery. Feel free to join if you are interested in driving forward our parish with your genuine ideas.
- 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 Extraordinary ministers of the Holy Eucharist, please speak to Fr Felix.
- We still need fresh readers at Mass, fundraising team and social organizers, Church cleaners and gardening and youth club organizers. If you can, please help us.
- It is wholesome thought to pray for the dead 2Maccabees 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 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: £373.30
Second Collection: £142.40
- Candle & votive : £10.44
- Many thanks for your generosity to the parish.



Father Felix Adiele

Just as Jesus was anointed with the Spirit at the beginning of his ministry, so the disciples needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit to carry out the mission entrusted to them by Jesus. The Holy Spirit is given to all who are baptised into Jesus Christ to enable us to live a new way of life - a life of love, peace, joy, and righteousness (Romans 14:17). The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with the love of God (Romans 5:7), and he gives us the strength and courage we need in order to live as faith-filled disciples of the Lord Jesus. The Spirit helps us in our weakness (Romans 8:26), and enables us to grow in spiritual freedom - freedom from doubt, fear, and from slavery to our unruly desires (2 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21). The Spirit instructs us in the ways of God, and guides us in living according to God's will. The Spirit is the source and giver of all holiness. Isaiah foretold the seven-fold gifts that the Spirit would give: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2).

The gift of Pentecost - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the spiritual gifts and blessings of God - are made possible through the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus. After his resurrection Jesus "breathed" on his disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. Just as God breathed life into Adam, so the gift of the Holy Spirit is an impartation of "new life" for his people. With the gift of the Holy Spirit a new creation

begins. God recreates us for his glory. Jesus' gift of peace to his disciples was more than an absence of trouble. His peace included the forgiveness of sins and the fullness of everything good. Do you want power to live a faith-filled life as a disciple of Jesus? Ask the Father to fill you with the power of his Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13)



There is a new Bill being debated in Parliament which would effectively allow abortion up to birth. There will be a pro-life rally outside Parliament next Wednesday 22nd May from 11am - 1pm. I am going if anyone would like to join me.

Roisin



Saint Christopher Magallanes was a Mexican Catholic priest who lived from 1869 to 1927. He played a significant role in the evangelisation of the indigenous people of Mexico and was a prominent opponent of the Mexican government's anti-Catholic policies during the Mexican Revolution. He was martyred for his faith in 1927 and was canonised as a saint by Pope John Paul II in 2000.



Volunteers involved with minors and vulnerable parishioners

Brentwood Diocese wants us all to take a new training course - you must self register using [this link](https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk), then complete the training as soon as possible

Jonathon Stenner, Safeguarding Officer

<https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk>

On Saturday 11th May we held the St Francis Confirmation group meeting at the Parish Hall. The focus was very much on "Wisdom" as a Gift of the Holy Spirit. It was really good to get the candidates working together to share ideas, discuss and consider the views offered by these young people. It was particularly interesting to get some of their views - that we report here ...

What Went Well?

"Hearing other people's opinions"

"This session has made me realise everyone has their own beliefs and views and it is nothing to be ashamed of or feel bad about for believing what you believe."

"They made us make our own decisions."

"Gained a better understanding and knowledge,"

"Got to talk about how I felt about things - which is always good. Everyone became a bit more comfortable to talk to as nobody is going to judge you for anything you say."

"Thinking activities - powers minds on and really made me think."

"I've learned more about words like Wisdom and Equality. I've started to gain a better understanding of Christianity."

"We were able to talk and be more social with each other"

We will certainly try to get a better selection of refreshments

At our Mass in St Peter's on 12th May we were very pleased to enrol Eelavan and Nilavan as our newest members of the Guild of St Stephen. We are very proud of all of our Altar Servers and they offer an amazing service to the Parish. Eelavan and Nilavan are important parts of this team and help Fr Felix at St Peter's with our 9.00 am Sunday Mass.

A big thank you to their parents, friends and parishioners for being there to celebrate this enrolment.

Medjugorje Web
medjugorje.org

