

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 14th September St Aiden	6pm Vigil Mass	Mass intention: Wellbeing of all
Sunday 15th September Evangelii Gaudium Sunday	9am Mass Sible Hedingham	Prayer intentions and blessings on Donna & Trevor Hipkins
Sunday 15th September Evangelii Gaudium Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of Fr Michael Tyrrell
Monday 16th September St Cornelius Pope St Cyprian, Bishop	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the eternal repose of Eunice Gardener
Tuesday 17th September St Robert Bellarmine St Hildegard of Bingen	No Mass	
Wednesday 18th September	No mass	
Thursday 19th September	No Mass	
Friday 20th September	Memorial of St Andrew Tae-gon and companions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:30 am and Mass @9.30am <i>First reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9</i> <i>Second reading: James 2: 24-18</i> <i>Gospel: Mark 8: 27-35</i>	



St Hildegard

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- I. This Sunday we are taking a second collection for propagation of faith (Evangelii Gaudium).
 - Special thanks to those who worked towards the success of our Garden party.
 - Our Parish retreat takes place on 16th October 2024 at Castle Hedingham at 10am to 2pm.

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

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

- If you recently joined our parish, we would like to have your name registered in our records. Please pick up a form at the back, fill it and return it to me or drop it at the back of the church.
- It will be beneficial 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 on our volunteer team. If you would like to join our Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, please speak to Fr. Felix.
- We are still in need of new Mass readers, a fundraising team, social organizers, church cleaners, gardeners, and youth club organizers. If you can, please help us.
- It is a 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 church's back and fill out your intentions.
- There is a chance for communion of the sick at homes for the housebound. Please let me know if any parishioners require a visit.
- It costs approximately £4,000 monthly to run our parish. Please consider sending an offering or a standing order to the parish. You can also make a donation to St. Francis of Assisi Church. Sort code: 40-13-22. Account Number: 71387014
- Everyone is welcome to participate in the Sanctuary Light sponsorship for 2024. You have the option to contribute £5.00 towards our weekly prayers for your specific intentions. Many thanks to those who signed up last year.
- **Weekend collection: £329.53**
- **Candle & Votive: £21.27**
- **Hedingham Coffee: £16.45**
- **2nd Collection (Education Sunday): £150**
- Many thanks for your generosity to the parish.
- The Holy Water font is now available for us to use. From the tap, take some home for your use. Before using, please let Fr. Felix know. Feel free to bless yourself with the Holy Water font; however, sanitise your hands before use to minimise the risk of possible infection.

For your diary:

- **Parish retreat 2024 @ Castle Hedingham: Wednesday, October 16th, 10 a.m.**

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 2024

Growing as missionary disciples

This year, *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* will be celebrated in our parishes on **15 September 2024**. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on the great mandate we have been given by the Risen Lord to evangelise the whole world. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," the Lord commissions, as we hear in Matthew 28:19.

Inspired by our ongoing Synodal process, Scripture, and Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, we have chosen the theme 'Growing as missionary disciples'. On the day itself, we can encourage the faithful to pray for our parish communities, that they would become intentionally missionary in their life and witness.

Here you will find resources to celebrate the day. A [second collection](#) will also be taken on *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. Please hold this important work in your prayers.



Free speech - what does the Church teach?

1731 *Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.*

We live in times where free speech is under threat. The reasoning behind this attack on free speech is the concept of 'hate speech'. What is hate speech? For some, the whole of the Scriptures and catechism are hate speech - for example the church's teaching on gender: 'God made them male and female', but our children are being taught something very different in schools. It appears, on thoughtful consideration that 'hate speech' is simply speech that someone finds hateful - it is essentially a subjective judgement. The powerful will decide what is hateful, and you will comply, or face the consequences. This development is all based on the idea of keeping us safe, but is it? Have you started to think twice about posting comments on social media? Do you look around and lower your voice when talking about controversial subjects, or do you just avoid anything that might cause offence? This is a weakening self-censorship that is

directly in opposition to being a bold and joyful Christian missionary, as the Pope has asked us to be on this Sunday. When we are so worried about causing offence, perhaps it is time to reconsider where this fear is leading? Salt that loses its saltiness is fit only to be thrown away (Matt 5:13) ³



Jonathon

Saint Robert Bellarmine (1542–1621) was a prominent Jesuit theologian, cardinal, and Doctor of the Church. Known for his intellectual rigor and deep spirituality, Bellarmine played a key role in the Counter-Reformation, defending Catholic teachings against Protestant reformers. His most influential work, *Disputations on the Controversies*, addressed critical theological debates of his time. Bellarmine also contributed to the development of Church doctrine, emphasising the importance of Scripture and tradition. Canonised in 1930, his legacy endures through his writings and devotion to faith. His feast day is celebrated on September 17, honouring his dedication to both truth and charity



An important message from Lynda

Please remember to pay your subscriptions for the monthly draw - a fun way of financing our church - top prize is £50 - it could be you!



WhatsApp

Join the WhatsApp group, search for St Francis Men's Fellowship and find out more!

Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179) was a German Benedictine abbess, mystic, writer, and composer.

Known for her visions, which she recorded in works like **Scivias**, she was a pioneering figure in Christian mysticism. Hildegard also composed sacred music, creating one of the largest repertoires of medieval plainchant. She contributed to theology, philosophy, and natural science, writing texts on herbal medicine, the human body, and the cosmos. Her correspondence with powerful leaders, including emperors and popes, showcased her influence in religious and political spheres. Hildegard was canonised in 2012, recognised as a Doctor of the Church for her theological impact.

Thank You

JUMBLE SALE

October 19th 10am to 12:30pm - if you would like to be involved in this event or any other fund raiser, please contact Father Felix - no previous experience needed, just your enthusiasm!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Date for your diary - November 24th - once again , we need your support, please contact Father Felix for details.