

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 28th September St Wenceslas	6pm Vigil Mass	Eternal repose of Francis William Willis
Sunday 29th September	9am Mass Sible Hedingham	Health and wellbeing of Lisa Searle
Sunday 29th September	11am Mass Halstead	Health and wellbeing of parishioners
Monday 30th September St Jerome, Priest	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for birthday blessing on R Van Dulken
Tuesday 1st October St Theresa of the Child Jesus	No Mass	
Wednesday 2nd October The Guardian Angels	No mass	
Thursday 3rd October	No Mass	
Friday 4th October St Francis of Assisi	Mass at 6pm There will be no exposition of Blessed Sacrament in the morning but in the evening from 5pm	
	<p><i>First reading: Numbers 11: 25-29</i></p> <p><i>Second reading: James 5: 1-6</i></p> <p><i>Gospel: Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-8</i></p>	



Friday 4th October 2024: Memorial of St Francis of Assisi. Mass @ 6pm. There will be no exposition of Blessed Sacrament in the morning but in the evening from 5pm.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- We shall be taking a second collection for the harvest fast to assist the work of CAFORD.
- Friday will be our Parish Feast Day. There will be Mass @6pm. There will be no exposition of Blessed Sacrament in the morning but in the evening from 5pm.
- St Francis of Assisi First Holy Communion programme. Thank you to those parents who have already expressed an interest in the First Holy Communion programme. The actual First Holy Communion will be held on Sunday June 22nd 2025. If you would like your child to participate in the preparation programme please complete an application form - these are available from Fr Felix and copies will also be available at the back of the Church. Please be aware that to be enrolled on the programme participants should be attending a Mass regularly and we would anticipate the children being in Year 3 or older. Please return completed forms by Sunday 3rd November 2024.
- 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 organisers, church cleaners, gardeners, and youth club organisers. 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: £304.58
- Candle & Votive: £20.33
- 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.
- Parish Feast day St Francis of Asissi on Friday. Mass @6pm.

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, also known as St. Thérèse of Lisieux or "The Little Flower," was a French



Carmelite nun whose profound spiritual writings and simple path to holiness have inspired millions. Born Thérèse Martin on January 2, 1873, in Alençon, France, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux at age 15. Despite her short life, dying of tuberculosis at age 24 in 1897, her impact on Catholic spirituality has been immense.

Thérèse's "little way" emphasised trust in God and the importance of small acts of love and humility. She believed that holiness could be achieved not through great deeds but by doing small things with great love. Her autobiography, **Story of a Soul**, which she wrote under obedience to her

superiors, became a spiritual classic after her death.

In 1925, Pope Pius XI canonised her as a saint, and in 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church, recognizing her profound theological insight despite her simplicity. Thérèse is also one of the patron saints of missionaries, owing to her desire to spread God's love worldwide, even though she never left her convent. Her life is a testament to the power of love and faith in the ordinary moments of life.

Daily Quote from the Early Church Fathers: *Encouraging good works done in Christ*, by Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 A.D.

"We ought not be disturbed because some who do not belong or do not yet belong to this temple, that is, among whom God does not or does not yet dwell, perform some works of power, as happened to the one who cast out devils in the name of Christ (Mark 9:38, Luke 9:49). Although he was not a follower of Christ, Christ ordered that he be allowed to continue because it gave a valuable testimony of his name to many... The centurion Cornelius also saw the angel that was sent to him to say that his prayers had been heard and his alms accepted (Acts 10:3-4), even before he was incorporated into this temple by regeneration." (excerpt from *LETTER 187, TO DARDANUS 36*)

Saint Francis of Assisi, born in 1181 in Italy, is one of Christianity's most beloved saints. Originally from a wealthy family, Francis renounced his possessions to live a life of poverty, dedicating himself to God. He founded the Franciscan Order, emphasising simplicity, humility, and love for all creation, particularly animals. His deep connection to nature and care for the poor reflect his belief in living the Gospel authentically. St. Francis also received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, as a sign of his profound devotion. He is the patron saint of

animals and ecology, and his legacy endures worldwide.



The Zimbabwean Guild of Mary Queen of Heaven is having heir meeting followed by Shona Mass on Saturday 5th October 2024 at 2pm, everyone is invited.



WhatsApp

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

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.

