

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 15th February St Jerome Emiliani | 6pm Vigil Mass | Thanksgiving for healing of Delilah Lilian and Eternal repose of Jane Janson & Mavis Waters |
| Sunday 16th February Sixth Sunday | 9am Mass St Nicholas | Birthday blessings and wellbeing of Nigel Gardener and Eternal repose of Stephen Beeching |
| Sunday 16th February Sixth Sunday | 11am Mass Halstead | Marital blessings on Keith and Beverley Chipato |
| Monday 17th February | No Mass | The sanctuary light prayer intention is for birthday blessings S Van Dulken & A Schunter and for the repose of G Van Dulken |
| Tuesday 18th February | No Mass | |
| Wednesday 19th February | No Mass | |
| Thursday 20th February | No Mass | |
| Friday 21st February St Peter Damain | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament @8am and Mass /@9.30am | |



First reading: Jeremiah 17: 5-8

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20

Gospel: Luke 6: 17, 20-26



Dives and Lazarus

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- There will be a second collection for Racial Justice.
- Our Parish Youth club takes place at the last Saturday of the month. The next one is coming up next week 22nd of February 2025 at 11am. It is open to ages 5-18.
- We are calling for sponsorship for the sanctuary lights for 2025. Write your intention and hand it over to Fr. Felix.
- We need new choristers and youth club coordinators. If you feel disposed, please speak with Fr. Felix

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: £397.79**
- **Mass Intentions for January: £40.00**
- **Second Collection Lourdes Sick: £151.00**
- **Hedingham coffee: £28.00**
- **Halstead coffee: £38.50**
- 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.

Deanery Business

Youth Club: Every Last Saturday of the Month. Next one is coming up on 22nd of February 2025

Wednesday May 14th 2025: Deanery meeting to be held at St Francis Halstead@11am.

Father Felix Adiele

Thought for the Week

Peter Beeching had a great suggestion - put a thought in each week, generated by parishioners, so here's Peter's first contribution:

Our Blessed Lord Jesus died on the cross for us..How have I got to change to fully benefit from his death?....



A reflection on the Profession of Faith

Most of you will be very familiar with a TV remote control. When you were younger do you remember when you had to get out of your chair to press a physical button on the TV to change the channel? If you are older you might remember the tuning control and the vertical hold - it always makes me laugh when I hear a podcaster or YouTuber say "Stay tuned!" To ensure listeners and viewers focus on their content- a fascinating reference to a time 70 years ago! I used to love looking at my grandfather's old valve radio with exotic names such as Hilversum , Monaco and Budapest embossed on the tuning panel - fine tuning and moving the aerial was something very normal in 1950.

When you use a TV or game remote you cannot see anything coming out of the unit - the channel or volume just magically changes when you press a button. The remote uses a sort of light that is not visible to the human eye - infrared light. So, a type of light exists, but it cannot be seen. When you use Bluetooth on your phone, the device uses invisible radio waves to transmit sounds from your phone to your car speakers.

In the Profession of Faith we say at each Mass, "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible". These simple invisible things we have looked at - infrared light and radio waves, do exist, but are not immediately apparent. Our Profession says God made these amazing things, even though we can't see them or use other senses to perceive them. If these simple things exist but cannot be perceived, what other

unimaginable complex realities also exist, but are apparently 'not there'?

When young people take their First Holy Communion they make the Renunciation, based on the Apostolic tradition, "I renounce Satan and all his work and ways." Can you see Satan? Well, all I can say from a personal perspective is no. However, in my work I can see Satanic influence in so many lives - depression, anxiety, confusion, ideologies that run counter to our faith. As a traditional Catholic I don't think the Church founders were making up a belief in Satan, or were too primitive and lacked psychological understanding - they were asking believers to renounce something absolutely real but not immediately perceptible - Satan. Every day we see invisible things having more and more of a marked influence on the real world.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" Ephesians 6:12 These 'heavenly places' could be translated for a modern audience as alternate realities. Quantum physics is embracing the idea that parallel universes really do exist. Perhaps our 'primitive' church founders were onto something?

So many people I speak to perceive that something is not right with the world. Our 2000 year old faith can provide a coherent answer to this faint sense of unease that is so prevalent today. Mention Satan and most would think you are mad, or a religious fundamentalist. Say that there are unseen forces from alternate realities that are pressing down on the Earth, causing unhappiness and discord, and they start to listen. Try it and see the awakening take place. Our faith does not only take the reality of evil seriously, it also takes the reality of a loving Father even more so. Since the events of 2020 many people have been woken up from the slumber of normality and can see the reality of evil all around. We, in all humility have the answers they are looking for. Be a bold witness and you may well be surprised at how responsive people can be.

Jonathon

G.K. CHESTERTON



CTS Biographies

Catholic Reading for a Winter's Evening

In "Orthodoxy," G.K. Chesterton presents a unique and deeply personal account of his journey to Christian faith. He begins by exploring the limitations of modern philosophical systems, arguing that they fail to capture the complexity and wonder of existence. For Chesterton, the materialist worldview is particularly inadequate, as it reduces reality to a mere collection of atoms and denies the existence of any higher meaning or purpose. As he searches for a more satisfying understanding of the world, Chesterton discovers the enduring power of traditional Christian orthodoxy. He finds that the core doctrines of Christianity, such as the Incarnation and the Trinity, offer a compelling vision of reality that embraces both the physical and the spiritual, the finite and the infinite. Throughout the book, Chesterton employs his characteristic wit and paradoxical

style to challenge conventional wisdom and provoke deeper reflection. He argues that it is precisely the "uncommon sense" of Christianity that makes it so appealing and so necessary for modern times. In the end, "Orthodoxy" is a testament to Chesterton's belief that the Christian faith is not a set of abstract propositions, but a living and vibrant encounter with the divine. It is an invitation to embrace the mystery and wonder of existence, and to find in the person of Jesus Christ the key to understanding both ourselves and the world around us.

Peter Damian, an 11th-century Italian monk and bishop, was canonised by the Catholic Church for his zealous defence of the faith and his commitment to reforming the Church. A prolific writer and preacher, he worked tirelessly to combat corruption and immorality within the clergy, advocating for a return to the simplicity and purity of the early Church. His most famous work, the "Book of Gomorrah," decried the prevalence of sexual sin among the clergy and called for strict disciplinary measures to be taken against offenders. By honouring Peter Damian as a saint, the Church recognises his unwavering dedication to truth, justice, and holiness, and holds him up as an example of courageous witness to the Gospel in the face of opposition and adversity..

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