

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 17th May	6pm Vigil Mass	Eternal repose of the Lilies list and Marjorie Badham
Sunday 18th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	9am Mass St Nicholas	Wellbeing of all
Sunday 18th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of Brian Stenner and Ann & Michele Vermilio
Monday 19th May St Dunstan	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the eternal repose of Ivy Bull
Tuesday 20th May St Bernadine of Siena, Priest	No Mass	
Wednesday 21st May Ss Christopher Magallanes & Companions	No Mass	
Thursday 22nd May St Rita	No Mass	
Friday 23rd May	Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament @ 8am and Mass @ 9.30	



First reading: Acts 14: 21-27

Second reading: Revelation 21: 1-5

Gospel: John 13: 31-33, 34-35



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

We shall be taking a second collection for the promotion of vocations which we missed last Sunday.

- Our Parish Youth club takes place at the last Saturday of the month. The next one is coming up on the 31st of May 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.
- **Candles/ votive: £0**
- **Weekend collection: £505.29**
- 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 diaries:

- **Youth Club: Every Last Saturday of the Month. Next one is coming up on 31st of May 2025.**

please do not reply to any email from Father Felix with this address:

rectoroffice.parish44@gmail.com, **it is a fake**

A True Story

Many years ago I worked for a Christian publishing company in suburban Weybridge, in Surrey. They were a small, but growing company that wanted to move from simply printing daily devotionals to additionally offering training courses to Christians. They prayed earnestly and felt the Lord wanted them to move the location of their offices to a more rural setting where properties were more affordable, with a capacity to allow residential training with en-suite bedrooms, catering facilities and classrooms. The search for a suitable location led them to a retirement home which the owners had put on the market for a very reasonable price...

The home had been neglected for many years - ivy was climbing up the brickwork, windows no longer fitted in the frames, there was leaking chimney flashing, clogged gutters were rusting and hanging down; a general state of dilapidation prevailed. The property would require a great deal of renovation, hence the low asking price. The builders moved in and discovered a stained hanging ceiling in the dining room, showing clear signs of water ingress. The ceiling was carefully removed and above it was a remarkable atrium roof with Victorian stained glass. The building had a listed status so the glass would have to be repaired professionally and sympathetically - renovation costs spiralled. The company arranged an interview with the local bank and asked for a loan of over a

million pounds to renovate the centre. The loan manager looked carefully at the costs and calculations and then asked the question, what collateral could the company offer? A senior partner said with complete openness,

“The Lord has told us to buy and renovate this property, that’s our collateral...”

The loans manager looked somewhat taken aback and said,

“I will have to ask for advice from head office, please could you wait here, I’ll be back shortly.” After a fairly brief wait, the bank manger returned and said with a smile,

“I’m pleased to tell you the loan has been agreed.” Rather surprised at the speed and outcome of the request, the partner said,

“That was unexpected, could you tell me why the loan was agreed so quickly without any financial collateral?” The sympathetic manager replied,

“This...er... shall we say unusual collateral, and the nature of your project was agreed by head office, because we found that such loans are always repaid on time. We only rarely get requests like yours, but we have found they carry no risk. Organisations like yours somehow always seem to find the funds needed. It seems God is always faithful.”

The centre is fully restored and functioning to this day; you can find out more by checking out this link

[Waverley Abbey](#)

Jonathon

St. Bernardine of Siena was canonised by Pope Nicholas V in 1450, just six years after his death, due to his profound impact on the Catholic Church and Italian society. A Franciscan friar and eloquent preacher, he revitalised Catholicism in 15th-century Italy, earning the title "Apostle of Italy." His sermons promoted devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, using the IHS symbol, and addressed social vices like gambling and usury. Numerous miracles attributed to him after his death, alongside his peacemaking efforts and theological contributions, solidified his sanctity, leading to his swift canonisation.



Common Logical Fallacies about the Catholic Church:

Strawman Fallacy:

Misrepresenting the Church's position, e.g., "The Church opposes science," ignoring its historical support for scientific inquiry (like the Vatican Observatory).



Holy Family by Marlene Lees

Bible Study



There is a meeting on 21st May at 2pm at 35 Potter Street, Sible Hedingham

