

ST FRANCIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER



St Francis Parish Halstead online:

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 June St Colman	6pm Vigil Mass	Eternal repose of Veronica Crawley
Sunday 15th June Holy Trinity/Day of Life	9am Mass St Nicholas	Wellbeing of all
Sunday 15th June Holy Trinity/Day of Life	11am Mass Halstead	Blessings on our Holy Communion children
Monday 16th June	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the repose of James Gardener
Tuesday 17th June	No Mass	
Wednesday 18th June St Barnabas, Apostle	No Mass	
Thursday 19th June St Romuald	No Mass	
Friday 20th June St Alban	Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament @ 8am and Mass @9.30	



First reading: Proverbs 8: 22-31

Second reading: 1 Romans 5: 1-5

Gospel: John 16: 12-15



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Today is a Day for Life. We shall be taken a second collection.
- Next Sunday, 14 children will be receiving First Holy Communion
- Our Parish Youth club takes place at the last Saturday of the month. The next one is coming up on the 28th June 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/Stfranchishalsteadparish/>

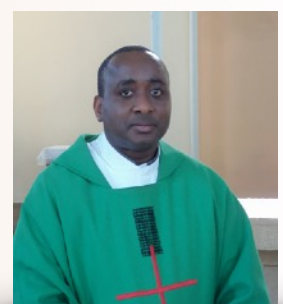
- If you recently joined our parish, we would like to have your name registered in our records. Please pick up a form at the back, fill it and return it to me or drop it at the back of the church.
- It will be beneficial for you to identify with an aspect of our parish life by committing your time and 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: £27.82**
- **Hedingham Coffee: £42.95**
- **Weekend collection: £384.89**
- **Plant/book sales: £711.40**
- **Repository: £80.34**
- 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 28th June 2025.

*Father
Felix*



The Roman Catholic Church's Longstanding Pro-Life Stance

For centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has been a steadfast advocate for the sanctity of human life, rooted in its theological and moral teachings. This pro-life commitment traces back to early Church writings, such as the *Didache* (c. 70-100 AD), which explicitly condemned abortion and infanticide, declaring, "You shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is born." This stance reflects the Church's belief that life begins at conception, a position grounded in biblical texts like Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

Throughout history, Church leaders consistently upheld this doctrine. In the Middle Ages, canon law imposed penalties for abortion, and theologians like Thomas Aquinas reinforced the sacredness of life. The 20th century saw intensified advocacy, with Pope Pius XI's 1930 encyclical *Casti Connubii* condemning abortion and contraception. Vatican II (1962-65) further emphasized human dignity, and Pope John Paul II's 1995 *Evangelium Vitae* declared abortion and euthanasia "crimes against life." Today, the Church continues its pro-life mission through global outreach, education, and support for expectant mothers, unwavering in its defence of life from conception to natural death.



Society for the **Protection** of Unborn Children

Get involved - [click here](#)

Prayer for the elderly

A O Lord, support us all the daylong of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,

and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in thy mercy,
grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at the last.
Amen.



Bible Study group, meet and read and discuss different themes.

New members welcome

Wednesday 25th June 2pm

Berryfields. Southey Green,

07379359191

Ring if you need more info, or need a lift.



Result!

Well, what a splendid flower festival and plant and book sale. Everyone loved the church filled with flowers, and enjoyed the refreshments and cakes at the plant and book sale. The grand total of money raised for the church - £725 an excellent result. A rewarding parish event. Thank you to everyone who took part in preparing, arranging, donating, buying, and clearing. Mary



Logical Fallacies about Catholicism

Strawman Fallacy: Misrepresenting the Church's position to make it easier to attack.

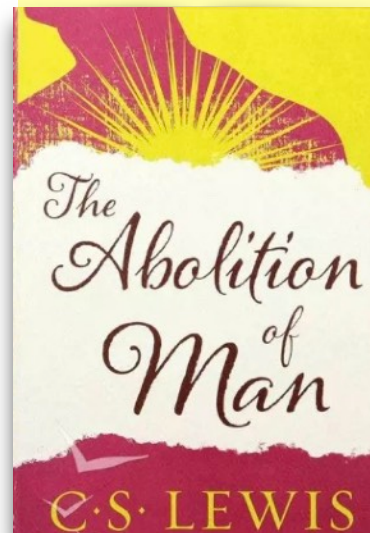
Example: "The Catholic Church believes women are inferior because it doesn't allow female priests," ignoring the Church's theological basis for male-only priesthood rooted in tradition and scripture, not gender inferiority. Women hold the status of Doctors of the Church and there are many female saints celebrated throughout the liturgical year.



CS Lewis' The Abolition of Man (1943)

This short book of apologetics explores so many of the issues we face today, despite being written 82 years ago. It is common to hear post modernists talk about 'my truth', or 'That's my lived experience' when discussing moral issues. Another common approach is to argue 'That's just your opinion'. This is known as subjectivism. Lewis argues that morality is not the subjective product of the individual, or their cultural norms, it is woven into the fabric of the universe. Morality is never invented, it is discovered - it was always there,

but just ignored because of its inconvenience to some personal objective. Lewis also expresses a deep fear that scientism will remove the sacredness of life; people become data, to be studied, analysed and assessed for their utility. In Canada, medical



assistance in dying programmes are now suggesting to depressed people that they should opt for euthanasia as a solution to their suffering.

Babies are dismissed as clumps of cells until some arbitrary time decided by the state. Reading Lewis' The Abolition of Man ends with a warning, which is in the title, but I won't spoil it for you... Jonathon

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

We are meeting in The Little Book Cafe on Hedingham Road at 10 am on 28th June - spaces are limited to 10 due to the kitchen being small (but excellent!)

Please contact me by emailing me at stennerjm@gmail.com

