



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 28th June Immaculate Heart of Mary	6pm Vigil Mass	Eternal repose of Richard Mintern Courtauld
Sunday 29th June St Peter & St Paul	9am Mass St Nicholas	Eternal repose of Harry Hajdrych
Sunday 29th June St Peter & St Paul	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of Rev George Greasley
Monday 30th June	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the health and Wellbeing of all
Tuesday 1st July	No Mass	
Wednesday 2nd July	No Mass	
Thursday 3rd July St Thomas, Apostle	No Mass	
Friday 4th July St Elizabeth	Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament @8:30 and Mass @9:30.	



First reading: Genesis 14: 18-20

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

Gospel: Luke 9: 11-17

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Next Sunday, we shall take a collection for Peters Pence to support the Pope's charity.
- We congratulate the 14 children who received their First Holy Communion last weekend. We keep them in prayers.
- 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/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: £24.34**
- **Weekend collection: £610.91**
- **Mass intention for June: £25.00**
- **Second collection for Retired priests: £121.68**
- 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*

St Francis of Assisi First Holy Communion 2025

Last Sunday we held our First Holy Communion group Mass during the 11.00 am Halstead service. The Church was so full of family, friends and parishioners who came together to celebrate this very special event. It seemed every seat was taken, there were people sat in the upstairs Chapel and even some standing in the Church doorways.



The children had worked so hard, since beginning the programme, with sessions starting in January and culminating with their First Holy Communion on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

A really big thank you to the parents who brought their children to the sessions, joined them for their First Reconciliation Service and supported them throughout the programme. Their commitment and support is much appreciated. Thanks should also go to our catechists for the work they did in preparing, delivering and organising the programme this year.

The children played a vital part in the Mass itself - Lucas and Xavier read our Old and New Testament texts superbly at the start of our service.

A big thank you to Chloe's uncle who kindly signed for hearing impaired worshippers

The Offertory was brought to the Altar by Chloe, Daniel, Etta and Liliana.

Our Bidding Prayers were delivered with great confidence by Olivia, Liam, Michaela, Florence, Darryius, Jude, Daniel, Sophia and Karunya. Thank you also to Alan, Michael and Tony for acting as our Extraordinary Ministers.

As well as receiving the Eucharist - the Body and Blood of Christ - the children were presented with their First Holy Communion certificates, a congratulations card and a "goodie bag" with a Rosary and a monk (St Francis) key ring (that was gifted from Hedingham Castle).

We hope and pray that their continuation on this journey of faith - as members of our Parish community - will be filled with the love of Christ.



There are some additional pictures that can be found on the Parish Facebook page that give you a flavour of how involved these young people were in the Mass.

It is interesting to note that the Mass was also attended by previous First Holy Communion participants including Eelavan, Nilavan, Olivia, Immanuel (Servers) and Krystian (organist) who have all continued to play a full role in our services at Halstead and Castle Hedingham.

****Apologies if I've missed out anybody but it really was very busy and, with such a full Church community, we might have missed some people out by mistake.****

Daily Quote from the Early Church Fathers: *Welcoming the Lord Jesus with expectant faith and humility, by Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 A.D.*

"When the Lord promised to go to the centurion's house to heal his servant, the centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.' By viewing himself as unworthy, he showed himself worthy for Christ to come not merely into his house but also into his heart. He would not have said this with such great faith and humility if he had not already welcomed in his heart the One who came into his house. It would have been no great joy for the Lord Jesus to enter into his house and not to enter his heart. For the Master of humility both by word and example sat down also in the house of a certain proud Pharisee, Simon, and though he sat down in his house, there was no place in his heart. For in his heart the Son of Man could not lay his head" (Matthew 8:20). (excerpt from *SERMON 62.1*)



Please come along on July 12th and enjoy a night out with music and fellowship. It's not all about raising funds and could be a good opportunity to get to know each other and have some fun too. Entrance by ticket £5pp which are for sale after Masses at Halstead and Castle. Full details below. Look forward to seeing you!

Julia



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

