

# ST FRANCIS PARISH

## NEWSLETTER



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](mailto:halstead@brcdt.org)).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>	<u>Intentions</u>
Saturday 19th July	6pm Vigil Mass	Health and healing for Holden Stenner, eternal repose of Marjorie Badham
Sunday 20th July 16th Sunday	9am Mass St Nicholas	Eternal repose of Joan and Dereck Jones
Sunday 20th July 16th Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of Maureen & Jimmy Murphy & Rod Tyler, grant them peace and eternal rest
Monday 21st July St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the repose of Doris & Willie Keenan
Tuesday 22nd July St Mary Magdalene	No Mass	
Wednesday 23rd July St Bridget of Sweden	No Mass	
Thursday 24th July St Sharbel Makhlouf	No Mass	
Friday 25th July St James, Apostle St Christopher	NO EXPOSITION/MASS until the end of Father Felix's holiday	



First reading: Genesis 18: 1-10

Second reading: Colossians 1: 24-28

Gospel: Luke 10: 38-42

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

- I will be taking a holiday from August 1 to 20<sup>th</sup>. Fr Frank Jackson will cover our Masses and potential pastoral needs. There will be no Friday Exposition and Mass on 25<sup>th</sup> up until I come back.
- We have set up a group of St Vincent De Paul in the parish. Consider joining their apostolate and support their mission with your time and donations. There will be tea and cake and coffee every fortnight at the hall after Morning Mass till Mid-day.
- Our Parish Youth club takes place at the last Saturday of the month. The next one is coming up on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 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: £12.10
- Weekend collection: £377.96
- Stella Maris second collection: £50.46
- Social evening: £317.00
- Hedingham Coffee: £30.10
- 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 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- Coffee morning on Friday from 10am to midday

**Meditation:** Does the peace of Christ reign in your home and in your personal life? Jesus loved to visit the home of Martha and Mary and enjoyed their gracious hospitality. In this brief encounter we see two very different temperaments in Martha and Mary. Martha loved to serve,



but in her anxious manner of waiting on Jesus, she caused unrest. Mary, in her simple and trusting manner, waited on Jesus by sitting attentively at his feet. She instinctively knew that what the Lord and Teacher most wanted at that moment was her attentive presence.

### ***Give your concerns and pre-occupations to the Lord***

Anxiety and preoccupation keep us from listening and from giving the Lord our undivided attention. The Lord bids us to give him our concerns and anxieties because he is trustworthy and able to meet any need we have. His grace frees us from needless concerns and preoccupation. Do you seek the Lord attentively? And does the Lord find a welcomed and honoured place in your home?

### ***Always welcome the Lord into your home and heart***

The Lord Jesus desires that we make a place for him, not only in our hearts, but in our homes and in the daily circumstances of our lives as well. We honour the Lord when we offer to him

everything we have and everything we do. After all, everything we have is an outright gift from God (1 Chronicles 29:14). Paul the Apostle urges us to give God glory in everything: "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).

When you sit, eat, sleep and when you entertain your friends and guests, remember that the Lord Jesus is also the guest of your home. Scripture tells us that when Abraham opened his home and welcomed three unknown travellers, he welcomed the Lord who blessed him favourably for his gracious hospitality (Genesis 18:1-10; Hebrews 13:2). The Lord wants us to bring him glory in the way we treat others and use the gifts he has graciously given to us. God, in turn, blesses us with his gracious presence and fills us with joy.

*Lord Jesus, to be in your presence is life and joy for me. Free me from needless concerns and preoccupations that I may give you my undivided love and attention.*



**S**t. Christopher, revered as the patron saint of travellers, holds a significant place in Christian tradition due to his legendary life and enduring symbolism. His importance stems from the inspiring narrative of his faith and service, which resonates with themes of protection, sacrifice, and devotion. According to legend, Christopher, a man of great physical strength, sought to serve the greatest king. Initially serving a worldly ruler, he later discovered Christ as the true King. His most famous story involves carrying a child across a river, only to find the child's weight nearly overwhelming—revealing the child as Jesus, bearing the world's weight. This act cemented Christopher's association with safeguarding travellers.

His veneration spans centuries, with pilgrims and wayfarers invoking his intercession for safe journeys. The St. Christopher medal, often worn or carried, symbolises divine protection in an uncertain world, offering comfort to those facing physical or spiritual journeys. Though historical details are scarce and his sainthood was debated during the 1969 calendar reform, his cultural and spiritual impact endures. St. Christopher's story inspires selflessness and trust in divine guidance, making him a beloved figure for those seeking courage and safety in their travels.



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make an online  
donation to  
our parish



**W**hat kind of world did St Francis of Assisi live in?

I find the world I grew up in is changing rapidly. My childhood was full of givens: a trustworthy medical service, reliable and affordable postal services, a large and effective military, MPs who responded to questions personally with regard to your interests, policemen who directed you when lost, and who arrested criminals; a court system the envy of the world, largely free of corruption and bias, a robust prison service where the guilty were punished. Hard work would allow you to buy a house and have a family. These givens are fading. I weave around ever larger potholes, an ambulance can now take eight hours to arrive, the Post Office & NHS and have been caught in cover ups over computer systems and infected blood supplies, my MP uses artificial intelligence to reply to my letters, and corruption in the police and courts are revealed on a weekly basis. It appears a sort of chaos is slowly emerging.

The world St Francis grew up in (1181-1226), was far, far worse. Local families controlled warring city states with private armies, opposing forces would suddenly arrive and demand support, political killings were rife, instability was the given. Life expectancy was around 30-35 due to high infant mortality. Plagues and famines were commonplace in Assisi, with lepers a common sight. Travel was severely limited due to bandits controlling the old Roman roads - these thieves would attack any person who dared to venture out alone, so private security details were essential. Law and order were practically non-existent for most people. You only trusted those you knew and your close family, dealing with wrong doers using the vendetta.

St Francis had one major concern: not making Assisi great again, but the complete renewal of the Church, which had started to reflect the corruption he saw around him. For St Francis, life was brief - he only lived for 45 years, but he wanted to spend his time on that which mattered - the eternal. When we look at history, we see how easy we have had things; like our patron saint, we too should now cling to the Cross as things around us start to unravel, and pray for the Church as our only security.

Jonathon