

# 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 4th October Saint Francis	6pm Vigil Mass	Health and wellbeing of all
Sunday 5th October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9am Mass St Nicholas	Health and prayer intentions of all
Sunday 5th October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	I lam Mass Halstead	Blessings and wellbeing of our parishioners
Monday 6th October St Bruno	No Mass	
Tuesday 7th September Our Lady of the Rosary	No Mass	
Wednesday 8th October	No Mass	
Thursday 9th October St Denis and Companions St John Leonardi St John Henry Newman	No Mass	
Friday 10th October St Paulinus of York	Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament @ 8am and Mass @9.30	



*First reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4*

*Second reading: 1 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14*

*Gospel: Luke 17:5-10*

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

- Our Parish Retreat comes up on November 12 at Castle Hedingham. Mass begins at 10am.
- We shall be taking a second collection for Harvest Fast Sunday.
- 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 after the summer holiday. 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: £26.08
- Weekend collection: £343.37
- Mass Stipend for September: £30.00
- Sanctuary Candle donation: £5.00
- 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 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Coffee morning on Friday from 10am to midday

**Parish Retreat @ Castle Hedingham on November 12**

**S**t. **Francis of Assisi** (1181/2–1226) is one of the most loved saints in the Roman Catholic Church because he embodied the Gospel in a simple, joyful, and radical way. Born into wealth, he renounced possessions to live in poverty, mirroring Christ's own life. This humility and detachment from material goods stood in sharp contrast to the wealth of the Church in his day, making him a prophetic witness of authenticity and simplicity.

Francis' spirituality was centred on following Christ as closely as possible. His radical poverty was not about deprivation but about freedom to rely completely on God. His union with Christ was so profound that he became the first saint to receive the **stigmata**, the wounds of Jesus, seen as a mystical sign of deep identification with the Crucified Lord.

Another reason for his lasting appeal is his deep love for creation. Francis saw all creatures as reflections of God's beauty, calling them "brother" and "sister." His *Canticle of the Creatures* praises God through the sun, moon, animals, and even death. This vision makes him the patron saint of ecology and animals, and a model for today's ecological spirituality, notably reflected in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

Francis was also a man of joy and peace. His greeting "Pax et bonum" (peace and good) expressed his spirit of reconciliation. He reached out to the poor, embraced lepers, and even met with the Sultan during the Crusades, showing openness to dialogue across religious lines.

Popular devotion to Francis remains strong because of his closeness to ordinary people. He began the tradition of the **Christmas crib**, helping the faithful visualise Christ's humble birth. In short, Catholics love St. Francis because he reflected Christ with such humility, simplicity, and joy that he became

a living Gospel for every generation.

## Canticle of the Creatures

**Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,**  
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

**Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,**

especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day and through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;  
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

**Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,**

in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

**Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,**

and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,  
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

**Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,**

who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

**Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,**

through whom You light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

**Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,**

who sustains and governs us,  
and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.



**Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love,**

and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace,  
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

**Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,**

from whom no one living can escape.  
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find in  
Your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.

**Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks**

and serve Him with great humility.

Please come and support our Jumble sale on Saturday 18th October 10am-3pm in the Church Hall.

Any clean and unwanted items to sell will be appreciated.



### A Note from Lynda

Please remember to pay your subscriptions for the prize draw - real cash prizes, all monies raised go to the parish.

### **THE SVP FOOD BANK NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Are you able to donate any of these items to help others in the parish?

#### **Non-perishable food items:**

Tinned soup, meat, fish, beans, fruit

Cup-a-soup

Cereal

Porridge sachets

Pasta

Rice

Tea, coffee, UHT milk

#### **Non-food items**

Soap

Toothpaste

Shampoo

Toilet paper

Tissues

Please note we can only accept unopened, undamaged goods that are still well within their 'use by' date.

Please leave your donations at the back of the church or give them to Fiona at Castle Hedingham

### **St Francis of Assisi Parish Retreat - 9.00 am - 2.30 pm on Wednesday 12th November**

The Retreat will begin with a Mass held in the Tapestry Room at 9.30:am - the ground floor of the Keep. This is a unique setting for our Mass and will also act as our base room for the day. We are looking forward to a day that will allow us to share aspects of our faith as well as having time to socialise. We do hope that you will join us in welcoming our guest speakers/presenters, including Rev Canon Dr Christian Okeke and Sr Frances Moore.



**Daily Scripture**  
Readings and Meditations