



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).

Date	Time & Location	Intentions
Saturday 22nd November St Cecilia	6pm Vigil Mass	Eternal repose of Rosemary Haigh
Sunday 23rd November Christ King of the Universe	9am Mass St Nicholas	Health & wellbeing of Alex Roberts
Sunday 23rd November Christ King of the Universe	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of Roy Hendy
Monday 24th November SS Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the repose of Bryan Jackson and wellbeing of Jackson family
Tuesday 25th November Dedication of the Basilica of Ss Peter and Paul	No Mass	
Wednesday 26th November	No Mass	
Thursday 27th November St Catherine Labouré	No Mass	
Friday 29th November	Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament @ 8am and Mass @9.30 Friendly Friday 10am-12pm	<i>First reading: 2 Samuel, 5: 1-3</i> <i>Second reading: Colossians 1: 12-20</i> <i>Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43</i>



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- We shall be taking a second collection for the Brentwood Catholic Youth society.
- Enrolment for First Holy communion for next year has started, please speak to Fr Felix for the forms or from our parish Facebook page
- Our Parish Youth Club takes place on the last Saturday of the month. 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.
- The parish has a Facebook page that gets updated daily with Mass readings and other items of information, consider having a look at it.

<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.
- 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. 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: £0.00
- Mass intentions for November: £40.00
- Weekend collection: £316.10
- Repository: £107.64
- 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 29th November 2025
- Coffee morning on Friday from 10am to midday

Father Felix

Meditation: Do you recognise that the Lord Jesus has been given all authority and power by his Father in heaven to reign over all creation - including the heavens and the earth? Jesus was crucified for his claim to be the Anointed King sent by the Father in heaven (John 18:37 and Luke 23:38) to establish his kingdom not only for his people Israel, but for all nations and peoples as well (Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30 and Matthew 26:63-64).

God is King and Ruler over all

What is the significance and meaning of Jesus' kingship for us? Kingship today seems outdated and useless, especially in democratic societies where everyone is supposed to be treated equal and free. Many rulers in past ages claimed they had sovereign authority to rule by divine edict. But God did not give his people Israel a king at first. Why? Because God alone was their King and they needed no other. Nonetheless, God relented and chose David as King over Israel with the promise that God would raise up through David's royal line a Saviour who would establish an everlasting kingdom of righteousness and peace that would endure for all ages (Psalm 89:29).

The Jews understood that the Messiah ("Anointed One") would come as God's anointed King to restore paradise and establish God's reign of peace for them. They wanted a Messianic King who would free them from strife and division and from foreign oppression. Many had high hopes that Jesus would be the Messiah and Ruler for Israel. Little did they understand what kind of kingship Jesus claimed to possess.

Jesus' claim to kingship

Jesus came to deliver his people, and the whole world, from the worst kind of tyranny possible - from bondage to sin, guilt and condemnation, and from the wages of sin which is death (Romans 6:23) and separation from an all-merciful and just Father who gave us his son to set us free and to adopt us as his beloved sons and daughters. Jesus came to conquer hearts and souls for an imperishable kingdom - a kingdom ruled not by force or fear - but by the power of God's righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

When Satan tempted Jesus during his forty day fast in the wilderness, he offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world (Matthew 4:8-9). Jesus knew that the world was in Satan's power. And this was precisely why Jesus came - to overthrow Satan's power and deception over the earth. Jesus knew that the way to victory was through submission to his Father's will and plan to lay down his life for us and reverse the curse of sin and death for us. The Father sent his only begotten Son into the world, not to condemn it, but to save it through the atoning sacrifice which Jesus would make for us through the shedding of his blood on the cross of Calvary.

Jesus came to restore Paradise for us - everlasting life with God

As Jesus was crucified on the cross alongside two criminals who were thieves, one mocked him for his claim to divine kingship. But the other thief recognized through the eyes of faith that Jesus was truly God's Anointed King and Saviour. He petitioned Jesus to treat his poor soul with mercy and pardon, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Jesus not only granted him forgiveness, but a place with him in his everlasting kingdom. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Jesus died not only as King of the Jews, but as King of all nations and Lord of the universe. His victory over the power of sin, Satan, and the world was accomplished through his atoning death on the cross and his resurrection on the third day. Jesus exchanged a throne of glory for a cross of shame to restore us from slavery to sin to glory with God as his adopted sons and daughters. That is why the Father exalted his Son and raised him in glory over the heavens and the earth. In the Book of Revelation Jesus is called *King of kings and Lord of lords* (Revelation 19:16). He now sits in glory at the right hand of the Father in heaven - and from his throne he rules as Lord over all. Do you recognise Jesus Christ as your Sovereign King and Redeemer?

Which ruler and kingdom do you serve?

The Scriptures tell us that there are ultimately only two kingdoms in this world which are opposed to one another - the kingdom of light

and the kingdom of darkness. Each kingdom is ruled by one lord or master - the Lord Jesus Christ who is the true "Light of the World" - and the false messiah and deceiver who is called the "anti-Christ" and the "angel of light" who rules over men and women through the power of false promises, lies, and temptation to sin and disobedience.

If we follow the Lord Jesus and entrust our lives to him he will open our eyes to the light of his truth and guide us by his Holy Spirit along the path that leads to our true homeland with God. If we follow the course which is set by the ruler of this present world - a world which is opposed to Christ and blinded by Satan - then we will discover that sin, pride, and deception will lead us down a path of destruction, death, and separation, rather than life, freedom, and friendship with God and the people he has redeemed with the precious blood of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Which kingdom will you serve - today, tomorrow, and for all eternity? This present world will pass away, but God's kingdom will endure forever. If we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and King and submit to his rule for our lives, we become citizens of heaven and inherit an everlasting kingdom which is ruled by righteousness, peace, and love. Is the Lord Jesus the true King and Master of your life?



Medjugorje Web

OUR Super Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 23rd November

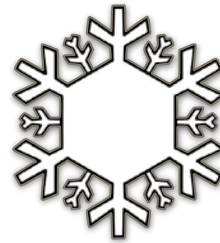
10.30am til 2.30pm St Andrews Hall
PLEASE RETURN ALL RAFFLE TICKETS
Sold or unsold.

If you are willing to help please contact a member of the fund raising team.

Saturday 4.00 til 6pm,
Sunday 8.30 til 3.30

We still need
BOTTLES, GIFTS, CAKES,
PARTY FROCKS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
ALL THERE TO SUPPORT RAISING
FUNDS FOR OUR PARISH, thank you



Many thanks to all parishioners who returned their red box. As a parish we raised over £250 which will be sent

directly to the missionaries - Well Done and many thanks to you all!

Boxes will be ready to collect at all Masses this weekend - and some free calendars for 2026 as well, please take one. And if you haven't already got a box in your house please do take one. Many thanks again
Ben