



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).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Intentions</u>
Saturday 1st November All Saints	6pm Vigil Mass	Eternal repose of Derry O'Riain
Sunday 2nd November All Saints, commemoration of the Holy Souls	9am Mass St Nicholas	Eternal repose of Holy souls
Sunday 2nd November All Saints, commemoration of the Holy Souls	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of Holy souls
Monday 3rd November All Souls - commemoration of all the faithful departed	Mass at 6pm	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for health and wellbeing of our parishioners
Tuesday 4th November St Charles Borromeo	No Mass	
Wednesday 5th November	No Mass	
Thursday 6th November	No Mass	
Friday 7th November St Willibrord	Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament @ 8am and Mass @9.30 Friendly Friday 10am-12pm	<u>First reading: Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14</u> <u>Second reading: 1 John 1: 1-3</u> <u>Gospel: Luke Matthew 5: 1-12</u>



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Every year we remember our deceased relatives and friends on All Souls day. We shall gather on Monday evening November 3rd at 6pm to pray for them, consider picking an envelope from the back of the church and fill in the names you want to remember. Donations to the church will be welcomed
- Our Parish Retreat comes up on November 12 at Castle Hedingham. Mass begins at 9 am.
- Enrolment for First Holy communion for next year has started, 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. 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: £19.23
- Weekend collection: £491.54
- Jumble sale extra cash: £35.00
- Mass Stipend for October: £60.00
- 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 29th November 2025
- Coffee morning on Friday from 10am to midday
- Parish Retreat @ Castle Hedingham on November 12



St Francis of Assisi - One In Christ

Parish Retreat - 9.00 am - 2.30 pm on Wednesday 12th November Our Parish Retreat will be held on Wednesday 12th November in the 900 year old Norman Keep at Hedingham Castle.

The Castle was built between 1142 and 1153 by Aubrey de Vere, the Third Earl of Oxford, whose family had gained the estate as a reward for supporting William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. 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.

One of the key themes for our Retreat will be "Prayer" and we will get an opportunity to explore types of prayer and reflect on our own approach. There will be guided activities, opportunities to work together in groups and personal prayer time. 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, Rev Barbara Hume and Sr Frances Moore.

Arrival 9.00 - 9.15 am

Welcome 9.15 - 9.25 am

Mass 9.30 - 10.15 am

Refreshments 10.25 - 10.50 am

Canon Rev Christian Okeke

10.50 - 12:10 pm

Prayer Theme (1) 12:10 - 12.50 pm

Lunch 12.50 - 1.30 **Please bring**

along a packed lunch

Prayer Theme (2) 1.30 - 2.15 pm

Final Blessing 2.20 - 2.30 pm

Q & A 2:35pm

What would you do if Jesus knocked on your door and said, "I must stay at your home today"? Would you be excited or embarrassed? Jesus often "dropped-in" at unexpected times and he often visited the "uninvited" - the poor, the lame, and even public sinners like Zacchaeus, the tax collector! Tax collectors were despised and treated as outcasts, no doubt because they over-charged people and accumulated great wealth at the expense of others.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and was much hated by all the people. Why would Jesus single him out for the honour of staying at his home? Zacchaeus needed God's merciful love and forgiveness. In his encounter with Jesus he found more than he imagined possible. He shows the depth of his repentance by deciding to give half of his goods to the poor and to use the other half for making restitution for fraud. Zacchaeus' testimony included more than words. His change of heart resulted in a change of life, a change that the whole community could experience as genuine.

With the Christmas Bazaar only 4 weeks away - please could everyone take a few books of raffle tickets to sell to family and friends - and, of course, buy some yourselves

The Raffle is a key part of the Christmas Bazaar and there's some great prizes on offer as well as the main cash prize!

If you could put the sold ticket stubs and money in an envelope and return them to the back of the Church at any Mass - Fr Felix and/or any of the fundraising team will be very happy and grateful to collect them

Many thanks everyone!

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
10.30 TIL 2.30
ST ANDREWS CHURCH
HALL
RAFFLE DRAW 2.00
please start donating gifts,
bottles, Christmas items, and
raffle prizes.
PLUS selling lots of raffle
tickets!
Thanks**



Medjugorje Web

SVP group meeting Friday
7th November in the
Presbytery. If you are
interested in finding out about the
SVP, or how you can help, please come
along.



Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the annual Monthly Draw. We now have over 200 participants, so we are able to give back £100 each month in prizes for the next year!

However, I am continuing to chase you all! Firstly, we will be collecting **BOTTLES** of any sort for the Christmas Bazaar Bottle Stall - to be held at the end of November. FULL bottles of anything (wine, spirits, bubble bath?!) or cans of any sort will be much appreciated.

Secondly, please start saving your money to purchase **Raffle Tickets** for the Christmas Hamper - valued at over £100 - which we will start to sell in a couple of weeks.

Very many thanks indeed,
Lynda



Could Parishioners who keep a Missio Red Box at home please bring it to Church over the next few weekends? If you simply leave it at the back of Church then it will be collected - and please take a replacement box. It would also be helpful if you could write your name on the white label on the bottom of the box. Thank you so much for the support you are giving the Missions by keeping the boxes at home - and if you don't have one please take one from the back of the Church. There's also regular magazines available in Church which show how the money is spent. Thanks again all - Ben