



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 4th April	6pm Vigil Mass	Eternal repose of our Easter listed deceased
Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday	9am Mass St Nicholas	Eternal repose of our Easter listed deceased
Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Eternal repose of our Easter listed deceased. Health and healing of Norma Pormento Salvacion
Monday 6th April Easter Monday	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the eternal repose of Dave Grace and Ken Parsley and for the Health and Wellbeing of Glynn & Jane Parsle
Tuesday 7th April	No Mass	
Wednesday 8th April	No Mass	
Thursday 9th April	No Mass	
Friday 10th April	No Mass	<p><i>First reading: Isaiah 10: 34, 37-43</i></p> <p><i>Second reading: Colossians 3: 1-4</i></p> <p><i>Gospel: John 20: 1-9</i></p>



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Appreciation for Easter Clergy Support Appeal. Thanks for your generosity.
- Our Parish Youth Club takes place on the last Saturday of the month. It is open to ages 5-18.

Deanery Business

- Feast day of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, spouse of the Holy Spirit
You are all invited to join Bishop Alan and the priests of the Colchester Deanery for Mass in celebration of the feast day of Our Lady of Light on Saturday 16th May 2026. The day will commence with a walking procession on the sea front commencing at 10.00am. Bishop Alan will preside at the Mass at 11.00am. All attending are invited to bring some flowers to place at the Shrine during the Penitential Rite. A reception will be held in the parish hall following the Mass.
- We are calling for sponsorship for the sanctuary lights for 2026. Write your intention and "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 2026. 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: £21.97
- Weekend collection: £430.77
- Lenten Fast. £106.10
- Sanctuary light sponsorship. £10.00
- 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 Saturday 26th of April 2026
- Coffee morning on Friday from 10am to midday



“On the third day the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realised the new wonder; but even they hardly realised that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but the dawn.” G K Chesterton

“The Resurrection is the central miracle asserted by Christians. What they mean by it is not simply that the spirit or personality of Jesus somehow survived death... They mean that the body which had been killed was restored to life and then transformed so that it could pass through doors... It is the beginning of the New Creation: a new chapter in cosmic history has opened.” C S Lewis

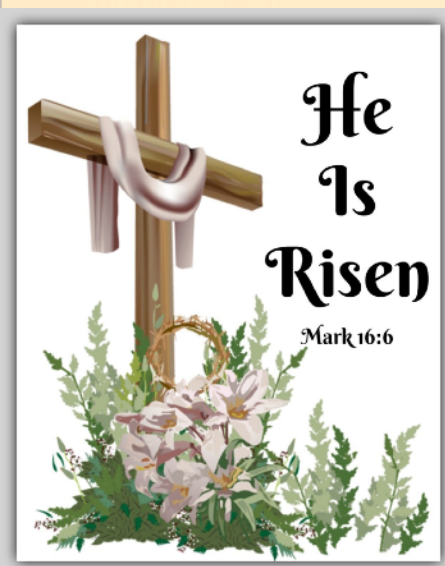
Do you know the joy of the resurrection? The Risen Lord Jesus revealed the glory of his resurrection to his disciples gradually and over a period of time. Even after the apostles saw the empty tomb and heard the reports of Jesus' appearance to the women, they were still weak in faith and fearful of being arrested by the Jewish authorities. When Jesus appeared to them he offered proofs of his resurrection by showing them the wounds of his passion, his pierced hands and side. He calmed their fears

and brought them peace, the peace which reconciles sinners and makes us friends of God.

Jesus did something which only love and trust can do. He commissioned his weak and timid apostles to bring the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This sending out of the disciples is parallel to the sending out of Jesus by his heavenly Father. Jesus fulfilled his mission through his perfect love and obedience to the will of his Father. He called his first disciples and he now calls each one of us to do the same. Just as he gave his first disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, so he breathes on each of us the same Holy Spirit who equips us with new life, power, joy, and courage to live each day as followers of the Risen Lord.

He died and rose that we, too, might have new life in him. The Lord offers each of us new life in his Holy Spirit that we may know him personally and walk in this new way of life through the power of his resurrection. Do you believe in

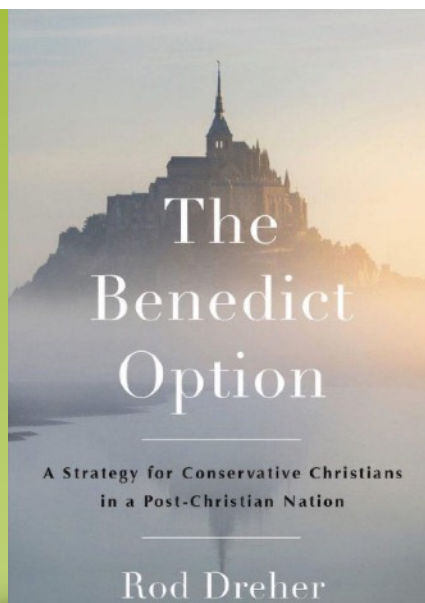
the good news of the Gospel and in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring you new life, hope, and joy?



The “Benedict Option” is a term used to describe a renewed focus on building strong, faithful Christian communities in an increasingly secular world. Inspired by the example of St. Benedict, who helped preserve Christian life and learning during the collapse of the Roman Empire, this approach encourages believers to deepen their commitment to Christ through intentional living.

Rather than withdrawing completely from society, the Benedict Option calls Catholics to strengthen their parish life, and friendships around shared faith. It emphasises formation over influence: prioritising prayer, Scripture, and the teachings of the Church, especially in the education of children. In a culture that often challenges Christian values, this deeper formation helps sustain faith across generations.

Key practices include regular prayer, participation in the sacraments, simplicity of life, and a commitment to community. It also encourages the development of supportive networks—schools, ministries, and friendships—that reflect and reinforce Catholic identity.



Ultimately, the Benedict Option is not about fear or retreat, but about renewal. By rooting ourselves more firmly in Christ and His Church, we become better equipped to witness to the Gospel with joy, clarity, and hope in the world today.

Jumble Sale

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 18th April 10-2pm

Any clean and saleable items would be greatly appreciated

Please leave at the church.

Do come along and support this fundraising event.

Ruth Lloyd-Jones



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