



# 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 6th June St Norbert, Bishop	6pm Vigil Mass	Health, healing and wellbeing of all
Sunday 7th June Corpus Christi	9am Mass St Nicholas	Health, healing and wellbeing of all
Sunday 7th June Corpus Christi	11am Mass Halstead	Blessings on the children on their First Communion
Monday 8th June	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the sick
Tuesday 9th June St Ephrem, St Columba	No Mass	
Wednesday 10th June	No Mass	
Thursday 11th June St Barnabas, Apostle	No Mass	
Friday 12th June Sacred Heart	Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am and Mass@ 9.30am	

*First reading: Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14-16*

*Second reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17*

*Gospel: John 6: 51-58*



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

- Our parish will celebrate the 2026 First Holy Communion on Sunday June 7. Seven of our children will receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the very first time. We ask the community to keep these young candidates in prayer as they prepare for this sacred and joyful milestone.
- We shall take a second collection for our sick clergy upkeep today
- Youth Day at Castle Hedingham – Saturday, 20 June 2026

We're excited to invite all young people in the parish to a special Youth Day at Castle Hedingham on Saturday, 20 June 2026. This day is designed to help our youth connect with their peers, grow in faith, and gain valuable life skills such as CV writing and more. Thanks to the remaining portion of the Our Lady of Ransom Grant, which will subsidise the trip. Each young person is asked to contribute £5.00 to help cover operational and staffing costs. All food and venue expenses will be fully covered by the grant. It's going to be a meaningful, fun, and enriching day — we'd love to see our young people there..

- 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: £17.46
- Weekend collection: £413.86
- Mass intentions for May: £40.00
- Sanctuary light donation: £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 25 of July 2026
- Coffee morning on every other Friday from 10am to midday

## The Solemnity of Corpus Christi

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi, whose full title is *The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*, is one of the Church's most important celebrations of the Eucharist.

Observed on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday (or on the following Sunday in some countries), it invites Catholics to give special thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

While the institution of the Eucharist is commemorated during Holy Week, particularly on Holy Thursday, the solemnity of Corpus Christi provides an opportunity to celebrate this mystery with joy and thanksgiving outside the more sombre context of Christ's Passion. It focuses on the Church's faith that, through the consecration at Mass, bread and wine become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

The feast was established in the 13th century and was strongly encouraged by the visions of St Juliana of Liège and the support of Pope Urban IV. Since then, it has become a cherished occasion for Catholics throughout the world to renew their devotion to the Eucharist, which the Church calls "the



source and summit of the Christian life.”

A distinctive feature of Corpus Christi is the Eucharistic procession. In many parishes and communities, the Blessed Sacrament is carried reverently through streets and public places, accompanied by prayer, hymns, and adoration. This public witness expresses the belief that Christ walks among His people and remains present in the life of the world.

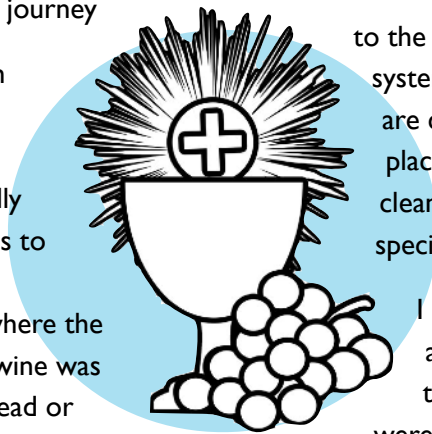
Corpus Christi is therefore much more than a feast day. It is a celebration of God's abiding presence, a reminder of Christ's sacrificial love, and a call to deeper communion with Him and with one another. As Catholics gather around the altar and adore the Eucharistic Lord, they are invited to be transformed by the One who gives Himself completely for the life of the world.



**T**he Zwinglian Heresy -a personal journey

I grew up in the Brethren church where the Eucharist was interpreted in a Zwinglian way - it was purely a memorial, Christ was not actually present in the bread and wine. Taking this to its logical conclusion I once attended a communion service in a house church where the bread was substituted for cake and the wine was replaced by Ribena - when there was bread or cake left over, it was thrown out of an emergency exit to the birds. The point of the service was communion with God and each other, the elements were just symbolic. A deep sense that this was wrong was one of the reasons I became a Roman Catholic - there was no reverence and their practices, although logical, felt very wrong.

When trained as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist I had to unlearn a lot of my upbringing. The reverence for the host and wine was very important - I discovered that there is a special basin that drains into the earth directly called a sacrarium - when there is any possibility of the blood or body being discarded (in most cases it is returned to the tabernacle, or consumed by the ministers), it must return reverently



to the earth, not into the public waste water system. When the vessels used in the Eucharist are cleansed with holy water, a special cloth is placed over them to signify that they have been cleansed properly. Should a spillage occur, a special cloth is used to absorb the liquid

I remember having a retreat in Clare Priory and I heard two women openly saying that the bread and wine are just symbolic - these were committed, albeit 'liberal' Catholics who were intending to celebrate Mass that morning. This materialism is widespread and this Zwinglian heresy is also a very commonly held one. Reverence for the Eucharist and belief in the real presence is one of the distinguishing marks of being a Roman Catholic. Could you train as an extraordinary minister? Please speak to Father Felix if you feel called to this ministry.

Jonathon



**FLOWER FESTIVAL**  
**ST FRANCIS CHURCH**  
**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> AND SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

SET UP FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH FLOWER ARRANGING AND DECORATING THE CHURCH, WITH BOUGHT AND GARDEN FLOWERS.

**PLANT, CAKES, AND BOOK SALE**  
**SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

FOLLOWING THE 11AM MASS, SALE ON THE FRONT LAWNS  
 HOME MADE CAKES, PLANTS AND FLOWERS, AND BOOKS.

WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT TO SET UP AND SELL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR CHURCH.  
 PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE FUND RAISING TEAM IF YOU CAN HELP.

**To hire the Church hall please contact Lynda Jackson on 07855 464876**