

World Day of Prayer for
the Care of Creation



ST FRANCIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER



Mass Times

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Intentions</u>
Friday 28th August St Augustine, Bishop	Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am and Mass@ 9.30am	
Saturday 29th August The Beheading of John the Baptist		Eternal repose of Noreen O'Riain
Sunday 30th August 22nd Sunday	9am Mass St Nicholas	Eternal repose of Jack & Rina Nicholls
Sunday 30th August 22nd Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Mass intention: eternal repose of our departed relatives.
Monday 31st August St Aidan	No Mass	The sanctuary light prayer intention is for the health and wellbeing of all
Tuesday 1st September Prayer for the care of creation	Funeral Mass of Annie Howard @12noon	
Wednesday 2nd September	No Mass	
Thursday 3rd September St Gregory the Great, Pope	No Mass	
Friday 4th September	Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am and Mass@ 9.30am	
Saturday 5th September	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 7th September	9am Mass St Nicholas 11am Mass St Francis	

First reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-9

Second reading: Romans 12: 1-2

Gospel: : Matthew 16: 21-27



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- This year marks two important milestones for Fr Felix: 20 years of priestly ordination /ministry in August 15 and his 50th birthday on 17 October. To celebrate these significant occasions, Fr Felix will be offering a Thanksgiving Mass on Saturday, 17 October at 2:00 pm. This celebration will take the place of the usual Vigil Mass. Everyone is warmly invited to join him as we give thanks to God for Fr Felix's life, vocation and years of faithful ministry. Following the Thanksgiving Mass, we will gather at Queen's Hall Halstead for a grand celebration and reception to mark this very special occasion. It will be a wonderful opportunity for parishioners, family, friends and well-wishers to come together, celebrate Fr Felix and share in the joy of these milestones. We encourage everyone to support Fr Felix with your presence, prayers and generosity.
 - As part of his vision for the future, Fr Felix has a lifelong dream of upgrading the church's heating and cooling systems, helping to provide a more comfortable environment for our parish community and future generations. We invite everyone to support him in making this dream a reality. Every prayer, contribution and gesture of support will make a difference.
- Please save the date — Saturday, 17 October — and join us for this very special celebration! Mass @2pm.
- There will be St Vincent de Paul Feast/ Social event on Sunday 4th October 2026 @11am. It is a parish event and all are welcome to join. (This is a change from the last newsletter)
 - The St Vincent de Paul Group is looking for a single bed to support a young mother in need. If you have a single bed you are able to donate, please speak to Deborah Hendy or Fr Felix. Thank you for your generosity.
 - 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 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: £18.32**
- **Weekend collection: £342.21**
- 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:

- **Coffee morning on every other Friday from 10am to midday**
- **St Vincent de Paul Feast/Social event 4th October after the 11am mass**



“For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done”

Last week we saw how Peter was given the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and was made the rock on which Christ would build his church - a very important man, clearly. In this week's readings we see Christ rebuke this same Peter as working for men and following Satan - how can we reconcile these two contradictory representations of the same individual? When we look at our own lives, we can see the same division of positives, balanced out by negatives; at times we can be patient, generous and kind, then turn and be proud, unforgiving and judgemental in the same day. As Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, an Orthodox brother once said:

““The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?”. Many people have utopian dreams of making the earth a paradise, where the evil people have all been removed and goodness reigns. For many socialists it was the ruling classes who were evil, for conservatives it was embedded institutional Fabians, whichever group you associate with, the enemy is always externalised, whereas the truth is that we carry evil in our own hearts. In the Gospel today we see Christ putting the question to his audience, where will you stand on judgement day? His answer is plain and simple, it is what

you do that matters, not what you think or believe. The great error of Protestantism is to assert the doctrine of sola fide - by faith alone are we saved. Yes, faith is central, but it is what we do with our faith that God is watching, not the fact that we have faith - even the devils have faith, but they remain evil. The Apostle James contrasts the dead faith of the demons with the living faith of the Christian - one produces evil, the other, good works.

The belief in a final judgement day has always been rooted in the heart of the faith. If we try to live as if we can carry on living a worldly life and keep our beliefs for Sunday, we lie to ourselves; we are like the foolish virgins who did not carry enough oil for their lamps and were excluded from the wedding party.

This week a terrible flood affected a remote valley in Nepal. Miles away, a huge part of a mountain separated from the bedrock and fell thousands of feet into the valley below, releasing a torrent of mud, boulders, water and ice into the tiny river valley, which was unable to hold back the volume of debris released. The scenes of dark black waters engulfing homes and making heavy buses and trucks look like toys as the pure force of the water pushed them

into a muddy oblivion will be remembered for years - once seen, it cannot be unseen. CAFOD is raising money for the flood victims; a very practical thing you can **do** is make a contribution and bring relief to these people who now face an uncertain future. Please click on the link below:

CAFOD A better world needs all of us

The Monthly Draw is due for renewal shortly. Please ensure you hand your entry money to Lynda, Fr. Felix, Mary or Alex ASAP. It costs just £12 for the year and you could be in with a



chance of winning £100 every month! Please support this fundraising initiative as it is a key way to us to be able to fund our Church.



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/@me for reconciliation)
(Tel 01787 472477 / halstead@brcdt.org).

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