



ST FRANCIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER



Mass Times

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Intentions</u>
Friday 25th September	Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am and Mass@ 9.30am	
Saturday 26th September St Cosmas, St Damian	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 27th September 26th Sunday	9am Mass St Nicholas	Wellbeing of all
Sunday 27th September 26th Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Wellbeing of all
Monday 28th September St Wenceslaus	No Mass	Sanctuary light prayer intention is for the health and wellbeing of all
Tuesday 29th September Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels	No Mass	
Wednesday 30th September St Jerome, Priest	No Mass	
Thursday 1st October St Theresa of the Child Jesus	No Mass	
Friday 2nd October The Guardian Angels	Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am and Mass@ 9.30am	
Saturday 3rd October	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 4th October	9am Mass St Nicholas 11am Mass St Francis	<i>First reading: Ezekiel 18: 25-28</i> <i>Second reading: Philippians 2: 1-11</i> <i>Gospel: : Matthew 21: 28-32</i>



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.
- There will be St Vincent de Paul Feast/ Social evening on Sunday 4th October 2026 @11am. It is a parish event and all are welcome to join.
- Registration for the sacrament of Holy Communion 2026/2027 cohort is open. Speak to Fr Felix
- 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: £11.64
- Weekend collection: £251.58
- 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 2026 11am
- Fr Felix thanksgiving Mass. Saturday 17th October @2pm

What kind of future are you preparing for? Jesus encourages us to think - to think about the consequences of our choices, especially the choices and decisions that will count not just for now but for eternity as well. The choices we make now will affect and shape our future, both our future on earth as well as in the life of the age to come.

Repaying a debt of gratitude and showing respect where it is due

Jesus tells a simple story of two imperfect sons to illustrate the way of God's kingdom. The father amply provided for his sons food, lodging, and everything they needed. Everything the father had belonged to them as well. The father also rewarded his sons with excellent work in his own vineyard. He expected them to show him gratitude, loyalty, and honour by doing their fair share of the daily work.

Converting both heart and will to do what is good and pleasing to God

The "rebellious" son told his father to his face that he would not work for him. But afterwards he changed his mind and did what his father commanded him. The "good" son said he would work for his father, but didn't follow through. He sought his own pleasure, contrary to his father's will. Now

who was really the good son? Both sons disobeyed their father - but one repented and then did what the father told him. Jesus makes his point clear - Good intentions are not enough. And promises don't count unless they are performed.

A transformed heart filled with gratitude and respect

God wants to change our hearts so that we will show by our speech and by our actions that we respect his will and do it. God offers each one of us the greatest treasure possible - indestructible peace, joy, and friendship with him in his everlasting kingdom. We can lose that treasure if we refuse the grace - the free gift of God's blessing and strength - which the Lord Jesus has won for us through his victory on the cross. The Lord Jesus fills us with the gift of the Holy Spirit who works in and through us for the glory of God. Do you seek to please God and respect his will and loving plan for your life? Allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with the peace, joy, and righteousness of God's kingdom (Romans 14:17).

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Report from the Eternal City

I had the great privilege of visiting Rome for the first time last week. I have taught Classical Civilisations in my previous

career and was intrigued to see the buildings and places I had described in reality...

Rome is beautiful, a city with so many breathtaking views of wonderful buildings, fountains, churches and ancient ruins. The Appian Way leads up to the city from the south and first impressions of Rome's suburbs were of urban squalor, advertising and graffiti. Motor scooters dart around like dragonflies, buses are heaving with passengers and there is an indefinable buzz of something. As we entered the centre the graffiti ended and the most beautiful buildings were revealed. If you make a visit, try not to look until you reach the central station, or Termini. One tip, which all the guides tell travellers, is see the places you want before the crowds get there - Rome is literally bulging at the seams by mid-day. The most memorable place for us, and the most peaceful, was strangely

empty - the ruins of the Baths of Caracalla. The building is almost on a divine level of size and planning - it had libraries, gardens, saunas and fresh water brought to feed the complex from a special aqueduct. I wondered how could this great civilisation fall so utterly? St Augustine, commenting after the sack of Rome in 410 AD said:

"For in this ruin there fell stones and timbers; but in the ruin those profligates effected, there fell, not the mural, but the moral bulwarks and ornaments of the city."

The saint recognised that civilisations **depend** on the moral character of those who inhabit them - when Rome became decadent, it passed the way of all immoral social structures - into history. The Latin phrase that came to mind as we saw the ruins was "sic transit gloria mundum" - thus passes the glory of the world.

Jonathon

Post scriptum: Santa Maria Maggiore is a must! These great churches arose out of the ruins and stand as a testament of our faith.

JUMBLE SALE

On Saturday 10th October from 10am until 1pm in the church Hall.

If you have any items that we could sell please leave them at the church.



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

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).