



ST FRANCIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER



Mass Times

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Intentions</u>
Friday 16th October St Hedwig, St Margaret Mary Alacoque	Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am and Mass@ 9.30am	
Saturday 17th October St Paulinus of York	2pm Vigil Mass followed by meeting in Queen's Hall	Wellbeing of Fr Felix
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday, Mission Sunday	9am Mass St Nicholas	Wellbeing of Fr Felix
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday, Mission Sunday	11am Mass Halstead	Wellbeing of Fr Felix
Monday 19th October St Isaac Jogues, Priest, St John de Brébeuf, St Paul of the Cross	No Mass	
Tuesday 20th October	No Mass	
Wednesday 21st October	No Mass	
Thursday 22nd October St John Paul II, Pope	No Mass	
Friday 23rd October St John of Capistrano, Priest	Exposition/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am and Mass@ 9.30am	
Saturday 24th October St Anthony Claret, Priest	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 25th October Thirtieth Sunday, clocks go back	9am Mass St Nicholas 11am Mass St Francis	



First reading: Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5



Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Fr Felix says a big thank you for celebrating him this weekend.
- Registration for the sacraments of Confirmation & 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: £32.13
- Weekend collection: £398.26
- Hedingham coffee: £30.76
- Prisoners' collection: £24.85
- 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
- Fr Felix thanksgiving Mass. Saturday 17th October @ 2pm



Father Felix

Matthew 22:15-21

15 Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,,

"Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to



them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard it, they marvelled; and they left him and went away.

Put off the earthly image and put on the heavenly one, by Origen of Alexandria (185-254 AD)

"Some people think that the Saviour spoke on a single level when he said, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar' - that is, 'pay the tax that you owe.' Who among us disagrees about paying taxes to Caesar? The passage therefore has a mystical and secret meaning. There are two images in humanity. One he received from God when he was made, in the beginning, as Scripture says in the book of Genesis, 'according to the image and likeness

of God' (Genesis 1:27). The other image is of the earth (1 Corinthians 15:49). Man received this second image later. He was expelled from Paradise because of disobedience and sin after the 'prince of this world' (John 12:31) had tempted him with his enticements. Just as the coin, or denarius, has an image of the emperor of this world, so he who does the works of 'the ruler of the darkness' (Ephesians 6:12) bears the image of him whose works he does. Jesus commanded that that image should be handed over and thrown away from our face. He wills us to take on that image, according to which we were made from the beginning, according to God's likeness. It then happens that we give 'to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what is God's...' (excerpt from HOMILY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 39.4-6)

As one grows older and sees the ending of earthly life approaching, the key consideration is where will eternity be spent, not how much money can one make or keep. To avoid taxes, which the rich have always done, complex offshore arrangements have to be made, trusts formed and expensive city accountancy firms employed. To seriously keep wealth away from the exchequer, planning has to encompass three following generations - the decisions your grandparents made will seriously affect you. All of this planning and hoarding of wealth shows where a person's real concerns are focused. Jesus said it was harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God than a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. When our Lord was crucified he didn't leave anything other than a garment - even this was gambled over.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." 1 Tim, 6-7

St Paul of the Cross: A Life Devoted to Christ

St Paul of the Cross was canonised by Pope Pius IX on 29 June 1867, in recognition of a life dedicated to prayer, poverty and proclaiming the love of Christ.

Born in Italy in 1694, Paul developed a profound devotion to the Passion of Jesus. He believed that reflecting on Christ's suffering and sacrifice could transform hearts, inspire repentance and bring people closer to God.

Renouncing worldly ambitions and embracing a life of poverty, Paul devoted himself to preaching and serving others. In 1720, he began developing the religious community that became the Passionists, formally approved by Pope Benedict XIV in 1741. The Passionists continue to proclaim the meaning of Christ's Passion and its relevance to the lives of ordinary people.

Paul was known for his powerful preaching, deep prayerfulness and concern for those who were spiritually troubled. His ministry encouraged people to turn away from sin and rediscover God's mercy. Reports of miracles attributed to his intercession also contributed to the Church's consideration of his cause for sainthood.

St Paul of the Cross died in 1775, leaving a lasting spiritual legacy. His life reminds us that true Christian riches lie not in possessions or status, but in faith, compassion and self-giving love.

His feast day is celebrated on 19 October.

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village.

He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty.

He then became an itinerant preacher.

He never held office. He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the public turned against him.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed,

all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned

have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.



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**