

St Paul's Church & Presbytery  
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Parish website: [www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk](http://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk)

St Paul's Mass Streaming Live Every Day (for times see below): [www.churchservices.tv/dover](http://www.churchservices.tv/dover)

Parish YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS-YO-03yeQ9om98ISW6zpQ>

Make a Donation at: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/good-shepherd-parish-st-paul-s-dover-st-finbarr-s-aylesham](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/good-shepherd-parish-st-paul-s-dover-st-finbarr-s-aylesham)

## The Nativity of the Lord

25<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020

Our churches are open.

Masks must be worn unless exempt.

# Merry Christmas!

### Masses in our Parish Over Christmas

#### Christmas Eve

St. Finbarr's: 5pm Fr. Leo

St. Paul's: 6pm Fr. Jeff

St. Finbarr's: 9pm Fr. Jeff.

St. Paul's: 10pm Fr. Leo

#### Christmas Day:

St. Paul's: 9.15am Fr. Leo

St. Finbarr's: 11.15am Fr. Jamie

St. Paul's: 11.30am Fr. Jeff

**Well Done:** I find myself wanting to rejoice about how beautifully so many have handled the challenges arising from the pandemic, medics working on and on, teachers keeping schools open, scientists getting us a vaccine quickly, so many people taking care to stay safe and the way so many are handling being much more on their own than usual. Two more profound aspects of the story have moved me too. I haven't met the kind of anger you sometimes meet when working with the sick when dealing with people who have had the virus or even with those who have lost more than one loved one. Goodness of soul amongst so many has won the day.

On the other hand, I have seen a much greater need for God in what Pope Benedict called the human square. I don't know what you all feel but I find myself wishing the politicians, even within parties, would get together. Is all the point scoring right when so many people are hurting?

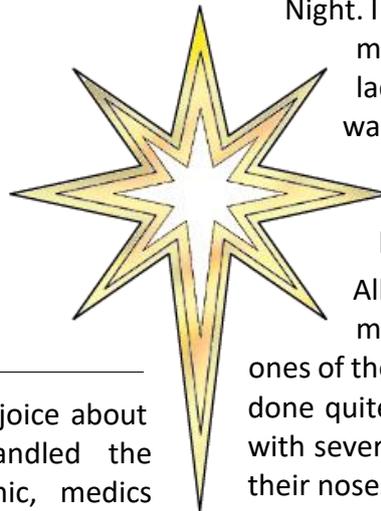
If everyone was not defending their corner, but looking at the bigger picture would the muddle in our town have developed in the way it has? Where was the freedom to see the need for loads of hot food and plenty of facilities that only those with power, locally and nationally can provide safely during a pandemic?

Something interesting happened on Wednesday Night. I went down to the seafront and collared a man with a TV Camera. The piece a lovely lady did before me about the politics of it all was broadcast all the evening. Mine, which they said was lovely, about the needs of the people on the seafront and in the lorries wasn't.

All this redoubles my enthusiasm for getting more people into our churches especially ones of the younger variety. Leo and I, have actually done quite well since the first lockdown, engaging with several people between 25 and 45 who poked their noses in the door and are now on their way to being real members of our community.

May I suggest to anyone reading this who is not really part of us that we need them and lots of others too, especially in younger age groups. When I was in London our weekly congregation increased from 300 to 800 over several years. When some nuns did a survey for their own reasons, they discovered the average age of those attending on the Sunday concerned was 35. We were able to do more things in tune with the needs of the time, which every age group enjoyed.

It is no use me ending on a vague note so if you are even slightly interested in what I have said, why don't you consider coming to church for six Sundays, even if you miss one or two on the way. Then like many others before you, you might find yourself saying 'Coming every week makes a difference, I



don't know why, but it does'. Who knows you might become a quiet member, who makes us stronger or an activist. Whatever you became we would be a little more able to help the poor and influence society in the way it needs. Fr. Jeff.

#### **Catechism Corner:**

Faith – what is it?

*Answer across the page~*

**St. Robert Southwell**, one of the English Martyrs, whose body now lies in a shrine in Westminster Cathedral was allowed to minister in that part of London for several years before he was arrested and later hanged. He wrote poetry of such significance that some of it is included in The Oxford Edition of English Verse. Here is his lovely little poem about Christmas Night.

#### **New Prince, New Pomp**

Behold a silly tender Babe, in freezing winter night;  
In homely manger trembling lies, alas a piteous sight:  
The inns are full, no man will yield this little Pilgrim bed,  
But forced He is with silly beasts, in crib to shroud His head.

Despise Him not for lying there, first what He is enquire:  
An orient pearl is often found, in depth of dirty mire;  
Weigh not His crib, His wooden dish, nor beasts that by Him feed:

Weigh not His mother's poor attire, nor Joseph's simple weed.

This stable is a Prince's court, the crib His chair of state:  
The beasts are parcel of His pomp, the wooden dish His plate.

The persons in that poor attire, His royal liveries wear,  
The Prince Himself is come from heaven, this pomp is prized there.

With joy approach, O Christian wight, do homage to thy King,

And highly prize this humble pomp, which He from heaven doth bring.

#### **On the Editor's Recommendation:**

I discovered this a little late, but a series of talks for an advent mission on the Renewal Ministries YouTube channel. If you didn't have time to do a retreat for Advent, and want to go deeper with Christ, Ralph Martin can help you.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK1vk61R6yivbCpTrTo2MloM6hMtVuxz>

#### **Catechism Corner: The answer.**

\*Faith is knowledge and trust. It has seven characteristics:

\*Faith is a sheer gift of God, which we receive when we fervently ask for it.

\*Faith is the supernatural power that is absolutely necessary if we are to attain salvation.

\*Faith requires the free will and clear understanding of a person when he accepts the divine invitation.

\*Faith is absolutely certain, because Jesus guarantees it.

\*Faith is incomplete unless it leads to active love.

\*Faith grows when we listen more and more carefully to God's Word and enter a lively exchange with him in prayer.

\*Faith gives us even now a foretaste of the joy of heaven. [153-165, 179-180, 183-184]

Many people say that to believe is not enough for them; they want to know. The word "believe", however, has two completely different meanings. If a parachutist asks the clerk at the airport, "Is the parachute packed safely?" and the other man answers casually, "Hmm, I believe so", then that will not be enough for him; he would like to know it for sure. But if he has asked a friend to pack the parachute, then the friend will answer the same question by saying, "Yes, I did it personally. You can trust me!" And to that the parachutist will reply, "Yes, I believe you." This belief is much more than knowing; it means assurance. And that is the kind of belief that prompted Abraham to travel to the Promised Land; that is the faith that caused the Martyrs to stand fast till death; that is the faith that still today upholds Christians in persecution. A Faith that encompasses the whole person.

#### **Clergy Christmas Offering:**

If you would like to contribute to the Clergy Christmas Offering and you are unable to come to Mass over the Christmas period, you can either make a donation through our JustGiving Page (See newsletter header), making clear it's the Christmas Offering or put your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Offering and post through the Presbytery door or by post for the attention of The Parish Secretary, 103 Maison Dieu Road Dover CT16 1RU (cheques made payable to The Parish of the Good Shepherd). Thank you, Mary (Parish Secretary).

**Act now! Ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide:** The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to pressure the Government to consider the legalisation of assisted suicide. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it

should not give in to demands from assisted suicide campaigners and should reject their demands. Take just 30 seconds to email your MP via: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>  
Daniel Turner, Right To Life UK +44 (0) 1732 460911;  
[daniel@righttolife.org.uk](mailto:daniel@righttolife.org.uk) [righttolife.org.uk](http://righttolife.org.uk)

**Please pray for those who are unwell**, especially Charlie Golden, Brendan Quinn, Peg Lecerf, Tina Isaacs, Ray Deverson, Lucy Purbrick ; Denise Bishop, Sean O'Regan, Jean Ann Dowle, Diane Jones, Nina Woolhouse, Ted Peel, Maureen & Joe Johnston, Christopher Browne, Angela, Ellen McGurk, Helen Davies, Christine Mackenzie, Chris Francis, Alice Wilson, Angela Henbrey, Julie Balston, Madison Woodall, Elisa Gomez Melero, Ann Tomalak, Cathy Huntley, Mary Nelson, Emin Jain, Pat Sherratt, **and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Mary Knight, Patricia Ann Golden, Gerard Patrick Moore, Teresa Breen, Helen Brazier, Ellen Jane Jarvis, Mercedes Monge, Sarah Jane Sennett, Lady Jenny Bidwell, Wilfred Morris, Violet Alice Lonie, Mona Stuart, Annie Cuffe ; Bernard King, Kathleen Bowles, Cliff May, Bob Francis, Isabel Baleste Fontbuena, Bob Wright, Bishop Francis Walmsley, Sr. Margaret Crawford DC, Dan Carlin, George Smith, Grace Mullan, John Marshall, Ellen Hambrook, Donal Maher, Eileen Wood, Vera Fisher, Germaine Hulbrecht, Guiseppina (Josie) Byford, Helen Gill, Jack Mitchinson, Catherine Smith, Catherine Nolan and Betty Casey, and Olive King.

**READINGS FOR  
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
25<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2020**  
(Christmas Day daytime Mass)

**First reading Isaiah 52:7-10 ©**

*Rejoice, for the Lord is consoling his people*

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 97(98):1-6**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God

**Second reading Hebrews 1:1-6 ©**

*God has spoken to us through his Son*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.  
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,  
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel John 1:1-18 ©**

*The Word was made flesh, and lived among us*

In the beginning was the Word:  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.  
 Through him all things came to be,  
 not one thing had its being but through him.  
 All that came to be had life in him  
 and that life was the light of men,  
 a light that shines in the dark,  
 a light that darkness could not overpower.  
 A man came, sent by God.  
 His name was John.  
 He came as a witness,  
 as a witness to speak for the light,  
 so that everyone might believe through him.  
 He was not the light,  
 only a witness to speak for the light.  
 The Word was the true light  
 that enlightens all men;  
 and he was coming into the world.  
 He was in the world  
 that had its being through him,  
 and the world did not know him.  
 He came to his own domain  
 and his own people did not accept him.  
 But to all who did accept him  
 he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him  
 who was born not out of human stock  
 or urge of the flesh  
 or will of man  
 but of God himself.  
 The Word was made flesh,  
 he lived among us,  
 and we saw his glory,  
 the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
 full of grace and truth.  
 John appears as his witness. He proclaims:  
 'This is the one of whom I said:  
 He who comes after me ranks before me  
 because he existed before me.'  
 Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received  
 –  
 yes, grace in return for grace,  
 since, though the Law was given through Moses,  
 grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.  
 No one has ever seen God;  
 it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's  
 heart,  
 who has made him known.

**EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK**  
**OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR MASS**

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Thursday	5pm 6pm 9pm 10pm	St Finbarr's, Mass for Mary Graves & Teresa Breen RIP (Bridget & Family) <i>(Fr Leo)</i> St Paul's, Mass for People of the Parish <i>(Fr Jeff)</i> St Finbarr's, Mass for those on their own at Christmas <i>(Fr Jeff)</i> St Paul's, Mass for Fr Peter Madden (Keith & Theresa) <i>(Fr. Leo)</i>
<b>Nativity of the Lord</b>	Friday	9.15am 11.15am 11.30am	St Paul's, Mass for Fr Terence Tanner RIP (F) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i> St Finbarr's, Mass for The Unemployed <i>(Fr Jamie)</i> St Paul's, Mass for The Homeless everywhere <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
<i>St Stephen, the first Martyr</i>	Saturday	5pm 6pm	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Jeff) until 5.45.</i> St Paul's, Mass for People of the Parish <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.15am 11.15am 11.30am 3pm	St Paul's, Mass for Special Intention (Lizzie) <i>(Fr Leo)</i> St Finbarr's, Mass for Fran Plews & Liz Simcox RIP (Bet) <i>(Fr Jamie)</i> St Paul's, Mass for G/E of Donor (F) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i> St Paul's, Exposition until 4pm
<i>Holy Innocents</i>	Monday	10am	Streamed Mass for The Fisher Family (Kath Quigley) <i>(Fr Leo)</i> <b>(Church closed)</b>
<i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	Tuesday	10am	St Paul's, Mass for Ernest Michael Huntley (Mary) <i>(Fr Leo)</i>
<i>6<sup>th</sup> day within the Octave</i>	Wednesday	10am 10.15am	St Paul's, Mass for G/E of Courtney (Lizzie) <i>(Fr Leo)</i> St Finbarr's, Mass for Eliza haslip RIP (F) <i>(Fr. Jeff)</i>
<i>7<sup>th</sup> day within the Octave</i>	Thursday	10am	St Paul's, Mass for Bernard & Josephine Smye-Rumsby RIP (F) <i>(Fr. Jeff)</i>
<i>Mary the Holy Mother of God</i>	Friday	10am	St Paul's, Mass for Cosmo Ruscito RIP (Bernadina) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
<i>Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</i>	Saturday	5pm 6pm	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Jeff) until 5.45.</i> St Paul's, Mass for Gavina Debbie (Sheila) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
<b>Second Sunday after the Nativity</b>	<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	9.15am 11.15am 11.30am 3pm	St Paul's, Mass for Avita Macari & Bernadino di Adamo <i>(Fr Jamie)</i> St Finbarr's, Mass for Mary Countess de Front (F) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i> St Paul's, Mass for Fr Peter Madden RIP (Marie) <i>(Fr Leo)</i> St Paul's, Exposition until 4pm

Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/parishofgoodshepherd](http://www.facebook.com/parishofgoodshepherd)

For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact Matthew Cloke, Editor: [dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk)

Newsletter items received after 6pm Thursday may not be included that week. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles.

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