



St Paul's Church & Presbytery

103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU

St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ

Parish Priest Fr. Jeff Cridland: 01304 206766, jeffcridland@rcaos.org.uk

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St Finbarr's: aylesham@rcaos.org.uk

Parish website: www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk

St Paul's Mass Streaming Live Every Day (for times see below): 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

4th Sunday of Advent

20th of December, 2020

Our churches have re-opened.

Masks must be worn unless exempt.

This week: 2nd Collection for Apostleship of the Sea

There will be a separate basket marked 2nd Collection at the exit of each church.

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

You will need a ticket

For St Paul's apply to Fr. Leo 07448 741186

illah@musician.org

For St Finbarr's apply to Carina 07766 406020

carinamjarvie@aol.co.uk

We have issued many tickets. There are still enough left for you to book to make sure you can get into the Mass you want to attend. From now on you will need to pick them up from the Presbytery in Dover, or Carina for St. Finbarr's.



Towards A Positive & Spiritual Three Tier Christmas in Our Parish: A Little Streamlined Retreat

Given by Fr Leo, Deacon Barry & Fr. Jeff via www.churchservices.tv/dover

Sunday 20th 7 – 7.30 pm. 'Prayer'.

Monday 21st 7- 7.30. 'Love'

Tuesday 22nd 7. 7.30 'Hope'

Confessions

Confessions are allowed again under 'Safe' conditions. In Dover that means in the big room in the presbytery. In St. Finbarr's; to be decided.

See Events for this week for Confessions times.

Priests Corner: I have had a lovely week. The best feature has been doing streamed Christmas Services for the children and staff in our Catholic schools, and

two other Catholic schools too. It is the first time since I started working in parishes 46 years ago, I haven't been spending time in schools preaching, listening to carols, watching nativity plays and wishing the staff and children a Happy Christmas, but it was good.

For all of you too this Christmas is going to be different. I hope you are able to touch a little of the joy of it somehow in spite of it all.

It is all going to be different for Fr Leo. There won't be the tumult and the big crowds he has been used to in the Philippines and then he will be having his first English Christmas Dinner. So, if it is different for you, you won't be the only one. It seems to me that many of us will have to offer up not seeing our families. May God Bless us All, especially those of you who have lost someone dear to them and may we all be granted the grace of a little hope that it will all be better next year. God Bless you all and let's keep each other in our prayers. Fr. Jeff.

Please Pray for Father Michael Gwinnell, who has died at a great age. He was a wonderful priest. Some of you may remember him as his sister, Mrs Gibbons, used to be an active parishioner here. Michael helped out sometimes when I was here before. May a Man of Great Wisdom be granted the reward he so richly deserves. Fr. Jeff.

Please Pray for David Butcher, Matthew Sullivan's Uncle who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

Christmas Greeting from Rome

I am spending Christmas here in Rome due to the travel restrictions. I am quite ok with that, although I will miss being home. A lot of us will be here so I shan't miss company. I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas season. I also want to thank everybody for their prayers and cards.

I often go over the road to the Basilica and St Paul's tomb and put in a good word for you all. I have also come to love Tre Fontane, where St Paul was beheaded and there is a Trappist Abbey: it is a very peaceful place. It seems some sort of Divine Providence: my middle Christian name is Paul, I came to St Paul's Dover, (not forgetting St Finbarr's, of course!), and now I am a stone's throw from the Apostle's tomb. His resting place is under the High Altar. If I go to Mass in the Basilica, when they read the epistle, I reflect that the writer is buried nearby: both strange and wonderful.

Recently we were blessed to have a bank holiday for the Immaculate Conception -shops were closed and we had no lectures. At Mass the night before the Rector said for the Italians it means a day "Of peace, love for Mary and getting ready for Christmas." The most wonderful cribs have now sprung up. The seminary one has, for example, a baker putting his bread in the oven, butchers, workmen, housewives etc. Last year the Three Wise Men appeared on a distant windowsill, moved a little every day, and only got to the crib on January 6th - Epiphany is also a Bank Holiday here.

The Vatican also released the letter written by the Pope dedicating the next year to St Joseph. It is well worth reading and not too long.

As for the studies, last year went well: the most difficult is philosophy whereas the Biblical studies are much more familiar. We have been studying the Church Fathers and practising preaching. At the end of October our year received the ministry of Lector, the first step to priesthood. There are many more to go!

I will keep you all in my prayers and wish you every blessing for Christmas and in the New Year. God bless you and keep you safe. *Andrew*

Thank you to everyone who donated food items, for the Dover winter night shelter and for our families in Aylesham. You have made a massive difference. Thank you also to Dover SVP for your

kind gifts. Have a wonderful Christmas and stay safe. Carina Jarvie

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. To donate, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

Christmas Greetings from SVP Dover Conference thanking everyone for their kindness during this difficult year. May you enjoy a happy, peaceful Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

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).

Dover Foodbank: It has been an unusual and busy year for the Foodbank with demand increasing about 26% year on year. Fortunately, stocks have mainly increased to meet this. There have been times when families have come to the Foodbank saying they have eaten the last of any food they have but thanks to continuing support the Foodbank has been able to help. It has been a credit to everyone involved with the Foodbank as volunteers, donors etc. without which the support to local people in crisis would not be possible. Thanks to you all.

Christmas is the busiest time as the Foodbank try to give every supported household a special Christmas Hamper in addition to the usual food provided. They anticipate giving out 80 + such hampers this year.

This year the Foodbank will be closed from midday on Christmas Eve until New Years Eve. There will therefore be no deliveries during this period apart from any special emergencies. The Foodbank will be back in action on New Year's Day onwards.

Finally, on behalf of the Foodbank I wish everyone and their families a wonderful Christmas despite all

that is going on and hope that 2021 will be much better year for you all. Len Stevens

Winter Night Shelter: 2020/21: Cooking for Jesus!

December 3rd until 31st March.

Support is for longer this year. Food will be cooked in the kitchen of St Peter's and St Paul's, Charlton church. Meals (main course and pudding) will be taken to the Dover Outreach Centre who will take it to the homeless in temporary B&B accommodation.

We need volunteers to help cook on Thursday evenings. You can also donate via the parish website (amount WNS) or drop an envelope into the presbytery addressed: "Deacon Barry, WNS". To volunteer or for information please contact Claudine Nutley, Parish WNS Coordinator claudinenutley@btinternet.com 01304 830275, or Deacon Barry barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk 07715 546938

Fr. Richard Rohr, Famous Franciscan Preacher

"Humans and history both grow slowly. We expect people to show up at our doors fully transformed and holy before they can be welcomed in. But growth language says it is appropriate to wait, trusting that metanoite, or change of consciousness, can only come with time—and this patience ends up being the very shape of love. Without it, church becomes the mere enforcing of laws and requirements. Without an evolutionary worldview, Christianity does not really understand, much less foster, growth or change. Nor does it know how to respect and support where history is heading... For the planet and for all living beings to move forward, we can rely on nothing less than an inherent original goodness and a universally shared dignity. Only then can we build, because the foundation is strong, and is itself good."

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:** Frances Joan Plews, Bryan Peter Finn, William Phelan, Maria Agnes Borgarello, Elizabeth Symcox, Carlos Monge, Mary Knight, Patricia Ann Golden ; Anne Brett, John Roy, Redmond Goodfellow, Pamela Curd, Elizabeth Ann Chidwick, Fr. David Maher, Bobbie Crascall, Eugenia Gluchowska, Ernest Alfred William Huntley, Dennis Casey, Kathleen Smith, May Carroll, Victor Grant, Pauline Mahon, Bernard Skippen, Edith Millar, Brian Munro, Bernard King, Kathleen Bowles, Cliff May, Bob Francis, Isabel Baleste Fontbuena, Bob Wright, and Bishop Francis Walmsley.

**READINGS FOR
4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT:
20TH OF DECEMBER 2020**

First reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on

earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Second reading

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Lk1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a

man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK

OUR CHURCHES HAVE REOPENED FOR MASS

	Saturday	10.30am 5pm 6pm	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Leo) until Noon</i> <i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Jeff) until 5.45.</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for Peter & Aiden Henneker RIP (Sheila) (Fr Jeff)</i>
4th Sunday of Advent	Sunday 20th December	9.15am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Pauline Mahon RIP (Jim & Family) (Fr Jeff)</i>
		10.45am	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery until 11.15am (Fr. Jamie)</i>
		11.15am	<i>St Finbarr's, Mass for Family Kuchcik, Swigon, Gluchowski (Marek Swigon) (Fr Leo)</i> <i>St Finbarr's, Confessions after Mass (Fr Leo)</i>
		11.30am 3pm	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Margaret Pope (F) (Fr Jamie)</i> <i>St Paul's, Exposition until 4pm</i>
	Monday	10am	<i>Streamed Mass for Harry & Mary Curtin RIP (John) (Fr Leo) (Church closed)</i>
	Tuesday	10am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Keith & Theresa (Marie) (Fr Leo)</i>
	Wednesday	10am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for McBride Family (Kath Quigley) (Fr Leo)</i>
10.15am		<i>St Finbarr's. Mass for Frederick Compton (F) (Fr. Jeff)</i>	
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Thursday	5pm 6pm 9pm 10am	<i>St Finbarr's, Mass for Mary Graves & Teresa Breen RIP (Bridget & Family) (Fr Leo)</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for People of the Parish (Fr. Jeff)</i> <i>St Finbarr's, Mass for those on their own at Christmas (Fr Jeff)</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for Fr Peter Madden (Keith & Theresa) (Fr. Leo)</i>
<i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	Friday	9.15am 11.15am 11.30am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Fr Terence Tanner RIP (F) (Fr Jeff)</i> <i>St Finbarr's, Mass for The Unemployed (Fr Jamie)</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for The Homeless everywhere (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> <i>St Paul's, Mass for People of the Parish (Fr Jeff)</i>
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Sunday 27th December	9.15am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Special Intention (Lizzie) (Fr Leo)</i>
		11.15am	<i>St Finbarr's, Mass for Fran Plews & Liz Simcox RIP (Bet) (Fr Jamie)</i>
		11.30am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Fr Nicholas Broder (F) (Fr Jeff)</i>
		3pm	<i>St Paul's, Exposition until 4pm</i>

Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/parishofgoodshepherd

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

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

A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050