



St Paul's Church & Presbytery

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

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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

The Baptism of the Lord

10th of January 2021

Our churches are open.

Masks must be worn unless exempt.

Next week: SPUC White Flower Appeal

A Chance to Help: From this week we will only be able to open St. Paul's for weekday Mass on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays unless more people volunteer to be stewards or something cataclysmic happens, I will be preaching about the issue over the weekend, but I would like to share some thoughts now too. Watching a streamed Mass keeps people in touch and I am sure can be really prayerful but what about those whose age, lack of technical knowledge, inability to find the money to buy a laptop or those who have been going to Mass and Communion every day for years and years. Here is a chance to say, 'We are with you.' You can get in touch with Dave Evans to volunteer 07791019897 pgsdavidaevans@gmail.com or you can ring one of us priests if you want to know more before committing yourself. I do hope enough people will sign up to open St. Paul's every day. Fr. Jeff.

Priests Corner: Please be very careful at the moment about Safety. The virus is very active round here. Let's all love each other by standing well away from each other, in church, the shops or wherever we go.

Please don't pass on any news about people passing away unless you are absolutely sure. We

had an example on Friday. Everyone was sad. Well done to the lady who was suspicious of the Facebook Entry. The patient was still with us. It is a hard time. Be kind to yourself by avoiding infection and keep up the prayer. Fr. Jeff.

Personal News: In January priests over 75 have to write to their Bishop saying if they want to stay in post and whether they believe they are fit enough. It bothers me every year. I have not made any decisions about where I live or what I do since I was 14 and it has done me a lot of good. Having consulted Fr. Leo and a couple of friends, I wrote my letter on Friday saying I believe I should stay on. I am sure the Archbishop will breath a sigh of relief as he is so short of priests. I hope he does. I will keep you informed. It would be interesting working together to get people back when everything has calmed down. Fr. Jeff.

The White Flower Appeal in our parish is going to be next Sunday as I have invited Fr Peter Geldart to make the appeal at St. Paul's.

Catechism Corner 1:

Is Sacred Scripture true?

Answer overleaf~

Please Pray for Fr. Michael Boland, who has died. He was a curate at St. Paul's during Fr. Tom Connolly's time but was replaced by Fr Paul Hough after a year as he could not drive. Later, he was parish priest in Cliftonville and then in London.

Please Pray for Richard Wilson from Aycliffe who has died at the age of 94. Many of you will remember him. He used to do a lot at St. Paul's when he was well enough.

Please pray for Deacon Jim Hayes who died on the 8th January in the Lavender Fields Home, Seal.

May they Rest in Peace.

On the Editor's Recommendation: This comes a little late, but you still have time to catch up. For anyone looking to read through the whole Bible in a year, I recommend **The Bible in a Year podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz**. You can find it on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you usually get your podcasts. Fr Mike reads through a few chapters per day, and you can follow along with him. I've found it very helpful so far, and Fr Mike's reflections are enlightening. Highly Recommended! Seek and you shall find 😊

Respond to Department of Health consultation to stop home abortions! The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step-

by-step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. The consultation ends on the 26th of February. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation>

Catechism Corner 1: The Answer.

"The books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach [the] truth... Written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author" (Second Vatican Council, DV 11). [103-107]

The Bible did not fall from heaven in its final form, nor did God dictate it to human scribes who copied it down mechanically. Rather "God chose certain men who... made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever he wanted written, and no more" (Second Vatican Council, DV 11). One factor in recognizing particular texts as Sacred Scripture was their general acceptance in the Church. In the Christian communities there had to be a consensus: "Yes, through this text God himself speaks to us – this is inspired by the Holy Spirit!" Which of the many original Christian writings are really inspired by the Holy Spirit has been defined since the fourth century in the so called Canon of Sacred Scriptures.

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, Iris (Tilly) Ball, 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:** John Phelan, Jane Daly, Connie Morrison, Maria Anna Curtis, Robert Anthony Mills ; Arthur Thomas Blackman, Federick Hunt, John Downie, Russell Wills, , Bob Tait, Susan Churcher, Ron Stone, Alfred Austin Willson, Myrle Harcourt, Bridget Brown, Jane Moyes, Grace Price, Christine MacDougall, Elsie Shearn, Bob Broom, and Michael Joseph Canning.

READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 10TH OF JANUARY 2021

First reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

Come to me and your soul will live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good
things to eat

and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the
peoples,

a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
those unknown will come hurrying to you,

for the sake of the Lord your God,
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity
on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,

my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,

my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from
the heavens and do not return without watering
the earth, making it yield and giving growth to
provide seed for the sower and bread for the
eating, so the word that goes from my mouth
does not return to me empty, without carrying
out my will and succeeding in what it was sent
to do.

Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12

Second reading

1 John 5:1-9

Jesus Christ came by water and blood

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been begotten by God;
and whoever loves the Father that begot him
loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children
if we love God himself and do what he has
commanded us;

this is what loving God is –

keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult,

because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world –

our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son
of God:

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,
not with water only,

but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness –

since the Spirit is the truth –

so that there are three witnesses,

the Spirit, the water and the blood,

and all three of them agree.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses,
but God's testimony is much greater,

and this is God's testimony,
given as evidence for his Son.

Gospel Acclamation cf. Jn 1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:7-11

*'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on
you'*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist
said:

'Someone is following me, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to
kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I
have baptised you with water, but he will
baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from
Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the

Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out
of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him.
And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son,
the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You
sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR MASS

	Saturday	5pm	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Jeff) until 5.45.</i>
		6pm	St Paul's, Mass for Bridie Green RIP (Peggy Merrell) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
The Baptism of the Lord	Sunday 10th January	9.15am	St Paul's, Mass for Special Intention (Sheila) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
		11.15am	St Finbarr's, Mass for Fr John O'Callaghan RIP <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
		11.30am	St Paul's, Mass for Fr Jeff (Sue Purbrick) <i>(Fr Leo)</i>
		3pm	St Paul's, Exposition until 4pm
	Monday	10am	Streamed Mass for Michael Connolly RIP (Kath Quigley) <i>(Fr Leo)</i> (Church closed)
	Tuesday	10am	St Paul's, Mass for James Fleetwood (F) <i>(Fr Leo)</i>
	Wednesday	10am	St Paul's, Mass for Fr. Michael Downey RIP <i>(Fr Leo)</i> (Church Closed)
10.15am		St Finbarr's. Mass for The People of The Parish <i>(Fr. Jeff)</i>	
	Thursday	10am	St Paul's, Mass for People of the Parish <i>(Fr. Jeff)</i>
	Friday	10am	St Paul's, Mass for Henneker Family (Sheila) <i>(Fr Leo)</i>
	Saturday	5pm	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Jeff) until 5.45.</i>
		6pm	St Paul's, Mass for Deceased members of the Stone family (F) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 17th January	9.15am	St Paul's, Mass for Fr Thomas Connolly (F) <i>(Fr Jeff)</i>
		11.15am	St Finbarr's, Mass for Wendy Herve RIP (Anne & Jeremy) <i>(Fr Leo)</i>
		11.30am	St Paul's, Mass for Fr David White RIP <i>(Fr Jamie)</i>
		3pm	St Paul's, Exposition until 4pm

Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/parishofgoodshepherd

For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact Matthew, the 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.

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