



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

Assistant Priest Fr. Leo Agbene Illah, CSSp 07448 741186 illah@musician.org

Fr. Jamie Houghton Tel 07955 242324

Deacon Barry Barton: 07715 546938, barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: dover@rcaos.org.uk

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

2nd Sunday after the Nativity

3rd of January 2021

Our churches are open.

Masks must be worn unless exempt.

16/17th January: SPUC White Flower Appeal

Happy New Year!

Wednesday is The Feast of The Epiphany
A Holy Day of Obligation. There will be an
extra Mass at St Paul's at 7pm

Priests Corner: Many are entering into the new year in a different frame of mind to usual and quite rightly so. Everyone seems to be being much more careful about avoiding the virus. It is all quite a strain. I want everyone to be careful, but I also want everyone to realise being good about the virus is excellent personal training. We are having a lesson in being careful and reaching for a particular goal. May you all keep safe and benefit too from the opportunity for personal formation this difficult moment offers. Hopefully during the year ahead things will become far easier but don't be too discouraged meanwhile. There is a spiritual opportunity in all this even if we feel low. May we all have a blessed year and may The Good Lord help many, many people to keep safe. Fr. Jeff.

Sorry: I do apologise for the fact the sound system was not turned on during the Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve. There were so many people helping it never occurred to me it might not be on. Can we establish a little rule? You can tell if the microphone is on in the porch. If the loudspeaker there is not blaring out the priest's dulcet tones, then those watching in their homes can't hear anything. If that happens can whoever realises come up to the

sanctuary and say so. This problem is not just about streaming. We had it before. I remember a funeral a while back when I found the problem very distressing. It does not seem right on special occasions for the priest to be seen hunting for his keys and heading off to the right. Perhaps everyone concerned could do their best in 2021 to make sure it does not happen again. Fr. Jeff.

Please pray for Bridie Green, Peggy Merrell's sister, who died on Christmas Eve. May she Rest in Peace.

Stewards Required: Happy New Year to everyone. In order to keep St Paul's Church open and ensure your safety at the weekday masses, we still need more volunteer stewards and **in particular two stewards for the evening mass on Wednesday for the feast of the Epiphany.** If you can help for this occasion, and for weekday morning masses, please email me on pgsdavidaeans@gmail.com. Secondly, on Thursday 7th January we have a zoomed church management meeting and will discuss lines of post- pandemic development in the church. Again, please email me if you have ideas for development that you would like me to consider for the meeting. Thank you for your help. David Evans (Chairperson St Paul's Management Group).

St. Finbarr's SVP: Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, 5th January at 10.30am.

Former Presbytery, St. Finbarr's: Now that the Sabra family has moved to Dover, a Syrian family from Swale will be moving into the former Presbytery, now 'Market House', on 19th January. This will free up the house in Swale for a new refugee family from Syria, once the travel restrictions are lifted. I know we will make our second family as welcome as we can. We will give more information about them, once they have

settled in, and have given us permission to tell you about them.

St. Finbarr's Management Group. Although we haven't included much about our St. Finbarr's Management Group in the newsletter, we are active in serving the church. We shall publish a summary of our minutes when we have had our next Zoom meeting.

Catechism Corner:

How can we tell what belongs to the true faith?

~Answer overleaf

Nixon Richard, Fr Roy's friend wrote on Christmas Day wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. He and his wife have been given permanent residence status in Canada, which means they are hoping to pay a visit to England later in the year. Nixon and most of his family had the virus at the end of November but are all better now. It was good to hear from him. Fr. Jeff.



Faith means putting up with God's incomprehensibility for a lifetime.

Karl Rahner (1904-1984), German Theologian

Thank you from Joe and Maureen: Thanks to everyone who sent Christmas cards to Mum and Dad. They really enjoyed getting and reading them. Best wishes to all for 2021. Paula Johnston.

On the Editor's Recommendation: I have been following Fr Mark Goring on YouTube. He is a Canadian priest of the Companions of the Cross, and posts daily inspiration for you to deepen your faith: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXWkyfyPE2fosQbnYOTiuZA>

Right to Life UK: the abortion lobby's plans in the coming year to make 'DIY' abortions permanent and introduce an extreme abortion law, as well as the assisted suicide lobby's plan to legalise assisted suicide. Thousands of lives that will be lost next year alone if we allow their plans to become law. Details of the added dangers of DIY abortions can be found at <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopDIYabortion>

We are 62% of the way to our goal of raising £200,000 that will allow us to fight back against their efforts. But we're not there yet... we urge people to give generously today. You can help us to create a

culture that values life and prevent laws that allow for the deaths of thousands of unborn children.

Your donation will ensure that we can defeat the abortion lobby's push to introduce extreme changes to abortion law in 2021.

<https://righttolife.org.uk/donatenow>

Reflection for The Epiphany of the Lord

Men and women of every generation need on their pilgrim journey to be directed: what star can we therefore follow? After coming to rest "over the place where the child was", the purpose of the star that guided the Magi ended, but its spiritual light is always present in the Word of the Gospel, which is still able today to guide every person to Jesus. This same Word, which is none other than the reflection of Christ, true man and true God, authoritatively echoed by the Church for every well-disposed heart. The Church too, therefore, carries out the mission of the star for humanity. But something of the sort could be said of every Christian, called to illuminate the path of the brethren by word and example of life.

Pope Benedict XVI

Catechism Corner: The answer.

We find the true faith in Sacred Scripture and in the living Tradition of the Church.

The New Testament developed out of the faith of the Church. Scripture and Tradition belong together. Handing on the faith does not occur primarily through documents. In the early Church it was said that Sacred Scripture was "written on the heart of the Church rather than on parchment". The disciples and the Apostles experienced their new life above all through a living fellowship with Jesus. The early Church invited people into the fellowship, which continued in a different way after the Resurrection. The first Christians held fast "to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). They were united with one another and yet had room for others. This is part of our faith to this day: Christians invite other individuals to come to know a fellowship with God that has been preserved unaltered since the times of the apostles.

Please pray for those who are unwell, especially Charlie Golden, Brendan Quinn, Peg Lecerf, Tina Isaacs, Ray Deverson, Lucy Purbrick ; Denise Bishop, Rodney Green, 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:** Violet Alice Lonie, Mona Stuart, Annie Cuffe, Eric Daniel Deary, Grady Golden, Helen Branwell ; Olive King, William Webster, Mary Jones, Charles Nosedo, Winifred Blackman, Nora Kelly, Anne Rosemary Vaughn, Kenneth Clark, Barbara McGarry, Martin Coyne, Mary McWhirney, Kathleen Docket, Constance Doolin, Catherine Payne, Mary, Countess de Font, Flo Cannon, Norah Amy Barton, Amy Madge Newell, Frances Catherine Sims, Barbara Ann King, Ellen Maud Lynch, and Patrick Gore.

READINGS FOR 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 3RD OF JANUARY 2021

First reading

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

From eternity, in the beginning, God created wisdom

Wisdom speaks her own praises,

in the midst of her people she glories in herself.

She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High,

she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One;

'Then the creator of all things instructed me,

and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.

He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob,

make Israel your inheritance."

From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,
and for eternity I shall remain.

I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,

and thus was I established on Zion.

In the beloved city he has given me rest,

and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.

I have taken root in a privileged people,

in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147:12-15,19-20

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Second reading

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of
heaven in Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us

in Christ,

to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in
his presence,

determining that we should become his adopted
sons, through Jesus Christ

for his own kind purposes,

to make us praise the glory of his grace,

his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about
your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you
show towards all the saints, have never failed to
remember you in my prayers and to thank God for
you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and
perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full
knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of
your mind so that you can see what hope his call
holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the
saints will inherit.

Gospel Acclamation cf.1Tim3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.

Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

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>Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</i>	Saturday	5pm 6pm	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Jeff) until 5.45.</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for Gavin and Debbie (Sheila) (Fr Jeff)</i>
Second Sunday after the Nativity	Sunday 3rd January	9.15am 11.15am 11.30am 3pm	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Avita Macari & Bernadino di Adamo (C. di Adamo) (Fr Jamie)</i> <i>St Finbarr's, Mass for Mary Countess de Front (F) (Fr Leo)</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for Fr Peter Madden RIP (Marie) (Fr Jeff)</i> <i>St Paul's, Exposition until 4pm</i>
	Monday	10am	<i>Streamed Mass for Sara and Rory (Sheila) (Fr Leo) (Church closed)</i>
	Tuesday	10am 1pm	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Pietro & Angelina di Adamo (C. di Adamo) (Fr Leo)</i> <i>St Paul's, Requiem Mass for Derek Friend (Private Service)</i>
The Epiphany of the Lord	Wednesday	10am 10.15am 7pm	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Ilona Parker (F) (Fr Leo)</i> <i>St Finbarr's. Mass for Fr Jeff's Intention (Anne & Jeremy) (Fr. Jeff)</i> <i>St Paul's Mass for The Unity of Christians (Fr. Jamie)</i>
	Thursday	10am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for People of the Parish (Fr. Jeff)</i>
	Friday	10am 11.20am	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Viv and Paul (Sheila) (Fr Leo)</i> <i>Barham Crematorium, Funeral for Phyllis Middleton (Private Service)</i>
	Saturday	5pm 6pm	<i>Confessions in St Paul's Presbytery (Fr Jeff) until 5.45.</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for Bridie Green RIP (Peggy Merrell) (Fr Jeff)</i>
The Baptism of the Lord	Sunday 10th January	9.15am 11.15am 11.30am 3pm	<i>St Paul's, Mass for Special Intention (Sheila) (Fr Jeff)</i> <i>St Finbarr's, Mass for Fr John O'Callaghan RIP (Fr Jeff)</i> <i>St Paul's, Mass for Fr Jeff (Sue Purbrick) (Fr Leo)</i> <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.

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