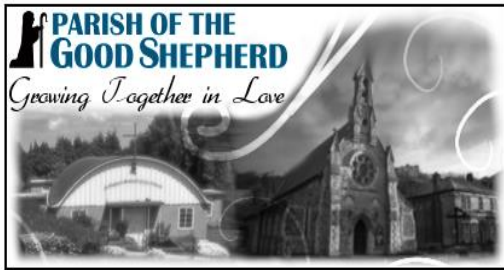


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St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ

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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

Sunday 12th March 2023

The 3rd Sunday of Lent (Mass book pg.158)

Priest's Corner. THANK YOU: We have been able to raise about £4,500 as a parting gift for the retirement of Fr. Jeff. What an amazing show of love and generosity from our Parishioners. This money will go towards supporting Fr. Jeff in the many pressing areas of need that are very personal to him. I want to sincerely thank you all for all you did to support Fr. Jeff from the last week of February until this Sunday, the 12th of March which is the last day for the goodbye ceremonies in honour of Fr. Jeff. Father Jeff will be presiding the Eucharist at St. Finbarr's today at 11:15am Mass and after the Holy Mass there will be a moment of celebrations and fellowship with all the Parishioners and members of the Aylesham community from 12:30pm to 2pm. I am grateful to all the people at Dover and Aylesham, the five schools connected to our Parish, all the people at Dover and Aylesham parish community and the other Christian Churches around. May the Lord reward you all. Thank you all. Fr Leo

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT. GIVE ME A DRINK (JN 4:5-42,15)



A spring of water welling up to eternal life

The Samaritan woman was at the well to draw water. Fortunately for her, she found the Lord and the Lord found her. So, instead of drawing water from the well just for her daily drink, she was able to draw eternal life from the Lord. From whom or from where do we draw life? This question can be answered on several levels. Maybe we draw life from our spouses as we experience their love. Perhaps we draw life from our children, or grandchildren, whenever we rejoice in their talents and achievements. We may draw life from the fulfilment and satisfaction provided by our work that makes a real difference to the quality of life for us and for other people. Or we may draw life from our hobbies that renew our enthusiasm for life. But on a deeper level, at the depths of our being, from whom do we draw life? For us Christians, there is only one completely satisfactory answer to this question. We draw life from God, the sole author of life. From him, we have life in all its fullness, and through his Son Jesus Christ. The fountain of living water is to be found with Jesus: a fountain from which eternal life gushes.

Prayer: God our Father, we draw our life from you. You are the fountain of life. Your word is living water without which we die. Accompany us on our journey through life, so that we may go with confidence into your world as a new creation; one body drawing life from the one fountain of life. Amen.

The Parish Retreat offers parishioners the opportunity for an experience like the apostles who went off to a lonely place with Jesus. Jesus is eager to offer His peace, joy, and healing to those who heed His call to 'come away' and be with Him. I appeal to all to make the most of this opportunity. I invite those also from Aylesham to please make efforts and join the retreat and participate prayerfully. For those who are ill at home, kindly join through the livestreaming. Our retreat is to be led by **Fr. Matthew Madewa**. **Fr. Matthew will also be presiding in all our Sunday Masses for the retreat weekend at St. Paul's.**

PARISH RETREAT TIME TABLE

17th of March Start of Retreat	5pm Talk/prayers	6pm Stations of the Cross
18th of March	11am. Talks/Sharing	12pm Adoration, Rosary and Confessions
	4:30pm Individual prayers	5pm -6pm Confessions followed by the Holy Mass
19th of March	Mass 9:15am	Mass 11am

YOUTH GROUP MEETING: Dear youngsters; kindly remember our monthly meeting scheduled for the 18th of March 2023. We shall all meet at the Hall by 1pm and after we shall proceed to Dover Leisure centre for our planned activity. Followed by a group Lenten picnic. Do not miss it. Get the details from the WhatsApp group. God bless.

FIDES PRAYER MEETING: This is to remind all and to invite all to our Monthly Fides prayer Meeting. It will be on the 15th of March by 7pm at the Parish Hall. We shall be viewing the movie on the Passion of Christ according to St. John's Gospel chapter 19. It will be followed by sharing and prayer. Teas and coffee will be served. It is a nice way to deepen our devotion in Lent. See you all.

Please pray for Jackie Margeson who has died. Her funeral will be held in St. Paul's on Wednesday 15th March at 11.30am followed by burial at St. James Cemetery. We also pray for **Chris Francis**. His funeral will take place in St Paul's on 16th March at 11am. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
Please pray for Canon Michael Bunce, the former parish priest of Canterbury, who has died. Many will remember him with great affection. His coffin will be taken into St. Thomas's Canterbury at 4pm on Monday 13th of March. His Requiem Mass will be at 11am Tuesday 14th March.

Next Weekend there will be a Second Collection for Poor Parishes.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection for Turkey & Syria. Please take an envelope from the back of church and put your donation in the collection or donate through the CollecTins or our website.

Confirmation Classes at St Paul's. We are now running the preparation classes for Confirmation at St. Paul's on Saturdays. The classes run every Saturday from 11am to 12pm in the Parish Hall. Two volunteers, Marisa and Renata, are kindly assisting us in this preparation. Send an e-mail to the parish office or call the parish phone, both above, to enrol your children or young adult above the age of 12. This preparation will run for some months and we will invite Bishop Paul for the Confirmation Mass.

St Jude's Prayer Group will be meeting on Monday 20th March at 2pm in St Paul's Hall. All are welcome.

The Repository will be open at St Paul's on Sundays in the church hall, after the 9:15am Mass, until 10:55am. Easter, R.I.P., Birthday and other cards will be on sale, plus rosaries and other items will also be available. Monica Pope.

Stations of the Cross – St Paul's will be said on successive Fridays of Lent at 6pm, 17th, 24th and 31st March. On Good Friday the stations will be said at 2pm prior to the Passion of the Lord at 3pm. St Jude's Prayer Group will be leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday 17th March. All who can attend will be most welcome and it will be appreciated. Deacon Barry.

St. Finbarr's –The next 'Stations of the Cross' will be said at St. Finbarr's from 10.15 - 10.45am on Sunday 19th March through to Palm Sunday. Do come if you can.

There will not be a 10am Mass or Bible Study on March 16th. The Rosary will now be prayed at 10am that day. The Next Bible Study will take place on Thursday 23rd March at St Paul's after 10am Mass.

Collections for February: Cash & CollecTin £2585.06; Bankers Orders £1767.67; Thank you for your generosity.

Men's Weekend Retreat. A joyful weekend of learning and retreat for Christian men. The Topic this year is: The Father's Love, Healing the Father Wound. It will be led by Rev. Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy, CSSp. A Priest of the Holy Ghost missionary Order. It will be at Hayes Christian Centre, Derbyshire on the 14th to 16th of July. This is recommended for Men who may want a time of prayer and renewal. Speak to Tim Morris or Fr. Leo

CATECHESIS

CONFESSIONS:

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: DO I STILL NEED TO GO TO CONFESSION?

Yes, we all do need to go to confession.


Every Catholic needs to go to confession. The Pope goes to confession regularly, the bishops do, the Priest and the Nuns do, the Lay Faithful all do. We all do. It does not matter if you are a good or a bad person; we all do need to be better in our journey of holiness. Confession is a sacrament that we need to celebrate just like the other sacraments. It is one of the very powerful and beautiful sacraments of healing and grace.

Our Lord in His infinite wisdom gave us the sacrament of His Mercy. He gave it to us on that first Easter Sunday, when He appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room after His Resurrection, a critical moment in the history of the Church. We are told about this in the Gospel of St. John: "He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (John 20:22-23).

The beauty of the sacrament of Penance is that whenever you confess your sins to the best of your ability and the best of your memory — when you don't hold anything back and you are truly sorry and you have a firm purpose of amendment — you always leave the confessional with that confident assurance of God's complete forgiveness. It is not proper to go to communion year in year out without making efforts to celebrate the sacrament of Penance, at least once a year. It is in this sacrament that we release the past to God's mercy, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.

During this season, every day we should try to make a good examination of conscience by asking ourselves these questions:

- Is there something I can do to get closer to God?
- Is there something I can do to know God better and to love Him more?
- Is there some way I can increase my desire for prayer?
- Is there some way I can rekindle that fire of divine love that might have gone out in my life?
- Is there something I can give up?

E	L	T	H	U	S	B	A	D	N	SAMARITAN	SYCHAR	JACOB
S	E	L	L	E	W	O	M	A	N	JOSEPH	WELL	WOMAN
W	Y	L	E	B	L	E	T	H	E	WATER	DRINK	JEW
A	E	C	W	O	I	I	J	P	T	BUCKET	CATTLE	HUSBAND
T	E	A	H	C	R	N	Y	E	E			
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D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I	J	J			
I	S	Y	C	B	S	A	R	A	O			
D	E	T	K	C	U	B	D	C	B			

Please Pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

At St Finbarr's: Audrey Hobbs, Patricia (Wendy) Herve, Sarah Docherty, Zona Patricia Coleman.

At St Paul's: James Joseph Gillan, Mary O'Keeffe, Ernest Michael Huntley, Philip Bywaters, Rose Creed, Baby Joshua Wells, John Fuller, Mary Coen, Pat Carr, Paul Coe, Christine Blackman, Frederick Hill, Edgar Ralph Ryan, Felix Mascarenhas, Jackie Bowles, Catherine Marples, Annie Collins, Irene Lohan, Hilda Smith, Daisy Lewis, Douglas Bertelsen, Muriel Campbell, Hanna Balogova, Fr. Frank Parkinson, Agnes Carr, Edward Brown Brodie.

Please Pray for those who are unwell at St Finbarr's: Gabriela le Bohec, Mary Robertson, Pam Osborne, Charlie Golden, Tina Isaacs, Ray Deverson, Lucy Purbrick, Amanda Dennis, Jadon Michael Kalp, Denise Mastro, Tara Conklin & Jamie Chitwood, Jeanette Peters.

At St Paul's: Shirley Jefford, Barbara Monclus, Maureen Houghton, Gail White, Neil Stevens, John & Joyce Nix, Bailey Turner, Peggy Merrell, Ryan Whittall, Denise Bishop, Sean O'Regan, Iris (Tilly) Ball, Jean Ann Dowle, Norman & Nina Woolhouse, Ted Peel, Christopher Browne, Angela, Ellen McGurk, Alice Wilson, Angela Henbrey, Madison Woodall, Julie Balston, Elisa Gomez Melero, Ann Tomalak, Cathy Huntley, Mary Nelson, Emin Jain, Pat Sherratt, Chris Roy.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
	Saturday 11th March	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
	Sunday 12th March	11.15am 12.30pm	Mass for G/E of Father Jeff Fr Jeff Farewell Reception for Father Jeff
	Wednesday 15th March	10.15am	Mass for Mary Ann Potter 'F' Fr Jamie
	Saturday 18th March	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
	Sunday 19th March	10.15am 11.15am	Stations of the Cross Mass for Dick & Lena Gammie RIP 'F' (Shivaun & Fiona) Fr Peter Geldard

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S			
	Saturday 11th March	10am 11am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Baby Eliza - In Thanksgiving (Mary) Fr Leo Confirmation Class in the Hall Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Fr Jamie Mass for Chris Francis RIP (Marie) Fr Jamie
	Sunday 12th March	9am 9.15am 11am 3pm	First Holy Communion in the Hall Mass for Ernest Michael Huntley RIP (Mary) Fr Leo Coffee in the Hall after Mass Mass for Chris Francis RIP (Jane) Fr Jamie Exposition and the Divine Mercy Chaplet until 4pm
	Monday 13th March	10am	Mass for Michael O'Neill RIP (Tim) Fr Leo
	Tuesday 14th March	10am	Mass for Miriam RIP (Sheila) Fr Leo
	Wednesday 15th March	10am 11.30am 6pm	Mass for the Widows of the Parish Fr Leo Funeral of Jackie Margeson Fr John Panario Exposition and the Holy Rosary until 7pm
	Thursday 16th March	10am 11am	The Rosary Funeral of Chris Francis Fr Leo
St Patrick	Friday 17th March	10am 6pm	Mass for G/E of Margaret Smith (Tim) Fr Leo Stations of the Cross
	Saturday 18th March	10am 11am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Joan Adams RIP (Nicholas Harby) Fr Leo Confirmation Class in the Hall Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Fr Jamie Mass for Helen Culling RIP (Anniversary) (Keith Graham) Fr Matthew
	Sunday 19th March	9am 9.15am 11am 3pm	First Holy Communion in the Hall Mass for Fr Roger Nesbitt (Jim) RIP & Marcela Pascova Fr Matthew Coffee in the Hall after Mass Mass for Mary Clarke RIP (Jim) Fr Matthew Exposition and the Divine Mercy Chaplet until 4pm

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

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

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

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 12TH MARCH 2023

First reading **Exodus 17:3-7**
Give the water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm **94(95):1-2,6-9**
O that today you would listen to his voice:
'Harden not your hearts.

Second reading **Romans 5:1-2,5-8**
The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn4:42,15**
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world: give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel **John 4:5-42**
The water I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life
Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son

Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir,' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth'. The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes, he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever

did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their

trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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 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