



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From the very beginning of His public ministry, Our Lord built faith communities around His Ministry. He said to us, 'whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I would be there with them'. (Matt 18:20). The same is true today when we come together as a Parish community. The Church has always been this living community that preaches the Gospel and celebrates the sacraments.

In order to continue this challenging task and to make visible the presence of Christ in the world, the Church must also sustain itself to achieve these ends. Each Parish, therefore, needs to be adequately funded and cannot depend on others, such as the Diocese, for financial support. Each Parish must balance its own books so as to ensure its long-term future in order to continue the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ to the first apostles.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the people of Dover and Aylesham. On behalf of the Diocese and the finance committee, I say a big thank you. I have enjoyed the support of all the people in the Parish since I took over the responsibility as the Parish priest and I will continue along with Fr. Jamie and the clergy to thank you. We are grateful.

In the light of the many pastoral activities taking place here in the parish, as well as the challenges presented to us by the upkeep of our Church buildings, may I invite you in the weeks ahead, to reflect on your regular offertory contribution. Let us think and pray together about how we can grow stronger as a parish community, trusting in the Lord for every provision. Thank you for your generosity!

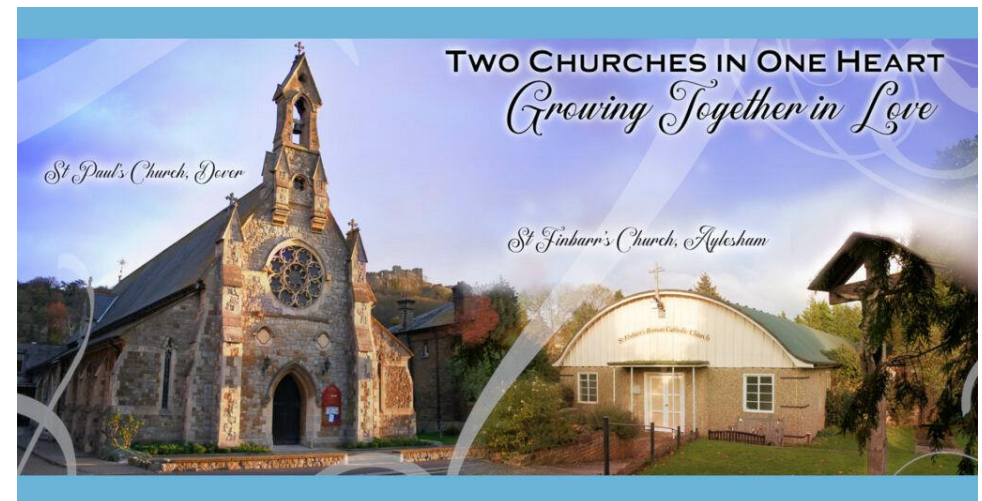
Fr Leo Illah

If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:

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WEEK 1

THE PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



OUR CALL TO YOUR STEWARDSHIP

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." - 1 Peter 4:10

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
Registered Charity Number 1173050



“We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.”

Romans 12:6

All we have comes from God, so we are His Stewards

Whether it is the gift of our faith, our friends and family, our skills, possessions, or the gift of life itself!

So how do I respond? Do I give thanks to God and honour Him through how I use these gifts? Regularly reflecting on my blessings and renewing my commitment to the Faith through my giving is therefore an important part of my personal spiritual growth and discipleship.

Whenever we give, we grow each time we:

- ✓ Joyfully recall that all we have comes from God;
- ✓ Declare our trust in His provision and care;
- ✓ Take one step forward in our personal faith journey;
- ✓ Share in the joy of giving and seeing the amazing fruits it brings.

Time, Treasure, Talents

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, treasure and talents that God wants us to use and share with others for His glory. Our parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners volunteering their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings.



“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share”

- 1 Timothy 6:18

What does my parish mean to me?

In addition to the volunteers who freely give their work, our parish relies heavily on offertory collections to maintain and grow our mission. Many parishioners are unaware that we do not receive funding from the Government, the Vatican or Diocese.

As members of this parish, we are each responsible for the upkeep of our churches and priests, with a duty to pass the parish on to future generations in an even better condition than when we became members of it.

What you decide to give is personal to you. Some like to break this down into both a financial contribution and also some volunteering time. For example, instead of giving 2% of income:

- 1 hour of volunteering a week
- 1% of their income.

The amount you wish to regularly give should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you. The table below can help you to work out percentages if you wish.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME		WEEKLY GIVING GUIDE		
Annual Salary	Hourly Wage	2%	3%	4%
£10,000	£5.56	£4	£6	£8
£15,000	£8.33	£6	£9	£12
£20,000	£11.11	£8	£12	£15
£30,000	£16.67	£12	£17	£23
£50,000	£27.78	£19	£29	£38



The late Cardinal Basil Hume suggested we consider offering our first hour's pay to God each week.