



St Paul's Presbytery 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU
 St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ
 Parish Priest: Fr Leo Illah CSSp 01304 206766, leoillah@rcaos.org.uk
 st: Fr Godwin Alkali CSSp 01304 206766 godwinalkali@rcaos.org.uk
 Asst: Fr Jamie Houghton 07955 242324 jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk
 Deacon Barry Barton: 07715 546938 barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk,
 Parish Secretary: 07936 573155 dover@rcaos.org.uk
 St Finbarr's: aylesham@rcaos.org.uk
 Dover SVP Conference: 07596 544109
 Aylesham SVP Conference: ayleshamsvp@btinternet.com
 Parish website: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk
 Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
 St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover

Sunday 7th April 2024

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (Mass Book page 259)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

“Jesus told St. Faustina to *“Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.”* (Diary, 1074) God is Mercy! His Mercies are new every morning. On this Sunday, we are invited to celebrate the mercy of God. We are called to give thanks for the mercy of God and to become also the reflections of His mercy in our brothers and sisters, and indeed, to the world.



Through the life of St. Faustina, we are made to focus on God's Mercy every day and especially on every first Sunday of Easter. We need to accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy in our Christian lives: One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is also another good way to receive and give thanks for Divine Mercy. We must keep in mind the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy through which we also shine out the Mercy of God in the world.

Bishop Robert Baron summarizes for us the ABC of the Divine Mercy message: **A – Ask** for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. **B – Be merciful**. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us. **C – Completely trust** in Jesus. God wants us to trust in him completely. “Trust in me, rest in me, abandon yourself to me. I do miracles

to the extent that you've abandoned yourself to me and according to the faith you have in me. So, don't worry, give me all your anxieties and sleep in peace and trust in me. Say always, Jesus I trust in You!”

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS FROM LOURDES.

Lourdes remains a moving place, no matter the amount of time you return here, you cannot get over the feeling of God's power; God's mercy and healing manifested through our every struggles of life. We prayed for everyone in our Parish from Lourdes, especially for the Sick members of our Parish and the elderly. We commended you into the hands of our blessed mother Mary and Saint Bernadette who was, although a sick child, but allowed her sufferings and illness to become an instrument of God's divine healing for millions of people in the world. Attending the HCPT Pilgrimage from St. Edmund's school with teachers and helpers are over twenty delegates; but upon arriving at Lourdes, we are joined with another large group of pilgrims led by Fr. John Panario from both Our Lady of Dover and St. Paul's Dover.



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We celebrated the Eucharist together on Tuesday at the Chapel of St. Gabriel and the joy we shared at prayer was so gracious. During our stay in Lourdes, we are joined with over 4000 pilgrims with more than 104 HCPT groups from over 13 countries around the World. We have over 70 clergy with more than 10 bishops praying together. In Lourdes, three names are printed in our hearts; Jesus our Saviour, Mary our Mother and St. Bernadette whose simple life, was all lived for God. One of the most moving moment was the candle light procession at night; the Eucharist together on Thursday at the underground basilica with thousands of people.



VERY BIG THANK YOU, DEAR FR. ANDREW

With a deep sense of gratitude, I want to sincerely thank Fr. Andrew for the five years of Loving Service to our Parish in Dover & Aylesham. Starting from his days as a seminarian until the Priestly Ordination. We are very thankful to you dear Fr. Andrew. May God Almighty bless you in your new ministry in Beckenham and we look forward to your visit to us soon from your new Parish. I want to invite everyone for a farewell Mass on **10th April at St. Paul's**. Mass will be at 6.30pm, followed by a light refreshment in the hall. There will also be a light refreshment on **Sunday 7th April** after the 11.15am Mass at St. Finbarr's. Let us pray for his new ministry ahead. He will be departing from Dover on 12th April to resume his ministry in Beckenham. God bless. Fr. Leo

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER'S TRAINING AND DAY: Dear Lay Eucharistic Ministers of our Parish, I want to invite you from both St. Finbarr's and St. Paul's for a half day training and prayer together **on the 27th of April, 2024, from 11am to 2pm**. We shall be looking at the new situations around our ministry and we shall seek to organize our way of serving more effectively at the Parish. This meeting will be the first training in a long while and I appeal to all Eucharistic ministers and all those exposing the sacraments either for Benediction or adoration to also please attend. Light Refreshment will be provided during the meeting. God bless. Fr. Leo

FR. JEFF WRITES: I have very good news. My specialist, who rang last Thursday week, thinks my cancer has gone. It is so exciting. He told me he wants me to have my last cycle of chemo, starting last Thursday and then spend May staying away from crowds but doing a lot of walking. I will have to have a scan but not until July because by then there won't be any strange chemicals. That means if there are still any naughty ones, they are more likely to show up. After the scan he hopes to be definite. It is wonderful. Thanks for all your prayers & Happy Easter. Fr. Jeff.

PLANNED GIVING LETTERS. If you completed a Pledge Form and haven't yet received your letter or Weekly Gift Aid Envelopes, please pick them up at the back of church today.

If you are new to the parish, or missed signing a **Pledge Form**, you can find them at the back of church or download one from the Parish Website <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/newsletters/> Please complete and return to the presbytery address at the top of the newsletter.

If you give regularly through one of our **CollectTins**, or would like to start using this method, Thank You. Half of those who regularly give through the Tins do not Gift Aid their donation. Thank you to those who have signed up for Gift Aid. Please consider Gift Aiding if you pay income tax regularly. It only takes a few minutes to enter your details through the Tin and once entered you do not need to enter them again. Once again, thank you and God Bless your generosity.

WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE TO ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX, FRANCE – Led by Fr Leo Illah CSSp. Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September 2024. The cost has now been confirmed at £355 per person based on 2 sharing plus £20 single supplement. A non-refundable deposit of £250 per person is required at the time of booking. Travel insurance is £37 per person if required. Places are limited so please book early. Contact dover@rcaos.org.uk or call/text 07936 573155 to request a booking form. A poster with further information can be found in the porch of both churches or on our website <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/events/>

ST PAUL'S WOMEN'S GUILD. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th April at 2.30pm** in the Parish Hall.

ST JUDE'S PRAYER GROUP will be meeting on Monday 15th April at 2pm in St Paul's Hall. All welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Mary Maureen O'Reilly who has died. Mary lived in Wingham and was part of St Finbarr's Parish. Her funeral will take place at St Finbarr's on Thursday 11th April at 3pm followed by cremation at Barham at 4pm. May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DOVER. At the Easter Sunrise Service last Sunday, the sum of £24.15 was donated for UNICEF Crisis Fund for the Children of Gaza. A further donation of £10 was received on Thursday, making the total £34.15. This sum was rounded up to £35, and this has been passed on to UNICEF. Many thanks to all who contributed.

TERRY SUTTON MEMORIAL SERVICE Friday 12th April, 3pm, St Mary-The-Virgin Church, Dover, followed by interment of ashes in the churchyard and refreshments in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

ST PAUL'S EASTER EGG HUNT:



Last Monday's Easter Egg Hunt was a great success with over 30 children taking part. There were lots of fun and chocolate to be had! We also had a colouring competition, here are some of the winners. Thank you to all families who supported this event. Thank you to Fr. Leo for all the support, and Special thanks to Fr. Godwin and Fr Andrew for joining us! – from George, Laura & Maria.



Parish of The Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Dates APRIL 2024		
YOUTH ALPHA FOR ALL FROM 16 YRS UP	EVERY SUNDAY	7PM AT ST. PAUL'S UPPER HALL.
FAREWELL MASS FOR FATHER ANDREW	WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 6.30PM MASS FOLLOWED BY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT ST PAUL'S	SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 11.15AM MASS FOLLOWED WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT ST FINBARR'S
CHURCH CLEANING DAY FOR ALL	AT ST. PAUL'S SAT. 6TH APRIL (10-12PM)	AT ST. FINBARR'S SAT. 20TH APRIL (10-12PM)
LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER'S TRAINING AND SEMINAR DAY	APRIL 27TH, 2024 ONE EVENT FOR THE BOTH CHURCHES	11AM TO 2PM AT ST. PAUL'S HALL

Please Pray for those who are unwell:
St Finbarr's: Elisabet Sulianti, Gabriela le Bohec, Charlie Golden, Tina Isaacs, Ray Deverson, Lucy Purbrick, Amanda Dennis, Jadon Michael Kalp, Denise Mastro, Tara Conklin & Jamie Chitwood.
St Paul's: Maureen Arman, Danielle Sutton, Fr John Ryan, Pat Evans, Fr Jeff Cridland, Shirley Lazarus, Shirley Jefford, Clare Quigley, Barbara Monclus, Maureen Houghton, Gail White, Neil Stevens, John & Joyce Nix, Bailey Turner, Peggy Merrell, Ryan Whittall, Iris (Tilly) Ball, Jean Ann Dowle, Norman Woolhouse, Ted Peel, Christopher Browne, Angela, Alice Wilson, Angela Henbrey, Madison Woodall, Julie Balston, Elisa Gomez Melero, Ann Tomalak, Cathy Huntley, Mary Nelson, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.
Please Pray for those whose anniversaries occur this week:
St Finbarr's: Mary Jane Kelly, Margaret McIntyre, Marguerite Frances Pattenden, Susan Tophill, Albert Morgan, Tony Hennin, Della Hewer, Mary White, Henry Valentine Gunson, Peter Yore.
St Paul's: Sr. Clare Riordan DC, Edward Couzens, James Gibbs, Kathleen Mary Huntley, Patrick 'Chuck' Brennan, Victor Sayers, Bishop Charles Henderson, Louise Xambo, Canon Ted Mitchinson, Ray Carney, Norman Patrick Revell, May Castle, Sr. Augustine McEntegart, Colin Henbry, Virginia Grilli, Bernadette Crittell, Malcolm John Skinner, Dorothy Smith

“Those who sincerely say ‘Jesus, I trust in You’ will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears. There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God.” — St. John Paul II

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
	Saturday 6th April	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	Sunday 7th April	11.15am	Mass for Fran & Liz (Bet). Fr Andrew Followed by light refreshments.
	Wednesday 10th April	10.15am	Mass for the Private Intention of Liz Lukehurst Fr Jamie
St Stanislaus	Thursday 11th April	3pm	Funeral of Maureen O'Reilly. Fr. Jamie
St Martin	Saturday 13th April	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 14th April	11.15am	Mass for George Gilchrist RIP (Bet) Fr Leo
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
	Saturday 6th April	10am 10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Holy Souls. Fr Andrew Church Cleaning (until 12 Noon) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Fr Andrew Mass for Virginia Ann Newby RIP (Simon) Fr Andrew
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	Sunday 7th April	9.15am 11am 3pm 7pm	Mass for Anniversary of Arthur Cloke. RIP (Matthew) Fr Leo NO MUSTARD SEEDS Coffee in the hall after Mass Mass for Kathleen Huntley RIP (Mary) Fr Leo Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Youth Alpha Course in the Upper Hall
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Monday 8th April	10am	Mass for Kathleen (Anniversary) (Sheila) Fr Leo
	Tuesday 9th April	10am	Mass for Dick & Lena Gammie RIP (Lizzie) Fr Godwin
	Wednesday 10th April	10am 2.30pm 5.30pm 6.30pm	Mass for Norah Lyons 'F' Fr Leo Women's Guild Meeting in the hall Exposition and the Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Mass for the People of the Good Shepherd Parish Fr Andrew Followed by light refreshments in the Hall.
St Stanislaus	Thursday 11th April	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary in the church Mass for Roma Ogilvy Watson RIP (Nicholas Harby) Fr Jamie Bible Study
	Friday 12th April	10am	Mass for the G/E of Maureen Houghton (Lizzie) Fr Leo
St Martin	Saturday 13th April	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for the G/E of Sheila (Lizzie) Fr Godwin Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Fr Leo Mass for Elizabeth Graham RIP (Keith) Fr Leo
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 14th April	9.15am 11am 3pm 7pm	Mass in Thanksgiving for the Planned Giving Drive Fr Godwin NO MUSTARD SEEDS Coffee in the hall after Mass Mass for Jurgis RIP (Monika Cloke) Fr Jamie Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Youth Alpha Course in the Upper Hall

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's avleshams2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Keith Wells for St Paul's doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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 117305

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 2024

First reading

Acts 4:32-35

United, heart and soul

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm

117(118):2-4,15-18,22-24

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Second reading

1 John 5:1-6

Anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came again.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained. 'Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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.