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 St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

Sunday 22nd December 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent –Year C – Missal Pg. 44.
Order of the Mass-Missal Pg. 470



**WISHING ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS
 A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS**



MASS SCHEDULES OVER CHRISTMAS 2024		
CONFESSIONS MONDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	10.30AM – 11.30AM AND 5PM – 6PM	ST PAUL'S, DOVER
CONFESSIONS MONDAY 23 RD DECEMBER	11AM – 12NOON AND 5PM – 6PM	ST FINBARR'S, AYLESHAM
CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24 TH DECEMBER	6PM MASS (WITH CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SINGING) 10PM MASS (CAROLS AT 9.30PM)	ST PAUL'S, DOVER
CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24 TH DECEMBER	7PM MASS (CAROLS AT 6:30PM)	ST FINBARR'S, AYLESHAM
CHRISTMAS DAY	10AM MASS	ST PAUL'S, DOVER
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.30AM MASS	ST FINBARR'S, AYLESHAM

PRIEST CORNER: Dear beloved Parishioners, On behalf of the Clergy, I want to sincerely wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas in 2024. Jesus is the greatest gift at Christmas and always, may His love continue to strengthen us on our journey. Merry Christmas to you and all your families. Fr. Leo.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: WE NEED TO CARRY JESUS TO OTHERS (LUKE 1:39-45)

I welcome you to this last Sunday before the anticipated day of Christmas. Today we are called to take Christ to others; To bring others to experience Christ by our positive actions as our mother Mary demonstrated in that generous and selfless visit to Elizabeth her kinswoman. Today's Gospel presents two seemingly insignificant women who meet to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God in their lives. The gospel shows how sensitive **Mary** was to the needs of **Elizabeth**, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. During her visit, these two cousins must have shared their profound experiences on the work of God in their lives. Mary, who had been pondering on the message of the Angel, needed someone with whom to share her thoughts and emotions.



In the story of Mary and Elizabeth, we can sense the virtues of humility, visitation and ardent faith shining which all of us all encourage to cultivate. The season of Christmas is a season of visitation. It is a time of reunion and a time when we visit our families and friends. More importantly, it is a time to remember special people who played significant roles in our lives. During this season, we identify with people who are lonely especially the bereaved, prisoners, those who are homebound, orphans, lonely children, elderly people, and the sick. We need to recognize the Real Presence of the *Emmanuel* (God is with us) in the Holy Eucharist, in the Bible, in the Sacraments, and in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right here in our surroundings. Let us convey Jesus to people around us by our acts of love, generosity, kindness, and forgiveness.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: We traditionally remind you of the Christmas offerings; you could use the envelopes at the back of the Church for that. God bless.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS, 2024

I want to sincerely thank all the Parishioners in both Churches who worked so hard to plan and lead the Christmas Carol Service for 2024. At St. Paul's, it was on the 15th of December and at St. Finbarr's, it was on the 18th. The events were well attended in both Churches. Special thanks to the choirs and the musicians. Thank you all and very best wishes to you over Christmas. Fr Leo.

View the videos from both churches here:
<https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/parish/>



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2025 GROUP. St Paul's and St Finbarr's.

The First Holy Communion (FHC) preparation program 2025 commences on **SATURDAY 4th January, at 9.30am, St Paul's Church Hall**, and on **SUNDAY 5th January 9.30am, at St Finbarr's Church**. This is the first of the weekly preparation classes and will continue on each successive Saturdays at St Paul's and Sundays at St Finbarr's until June 2025, with the exception of half and end of term school holidays. The move to Sunday mornings before Mass from Saturday mornings at St Finbarr's is new in order to facilitate greater attendance. Both at St Paul's and St Finbarr's every child **MUST** attend each of the FHC sessions and **STAY** with their parent throughout. This helps parents to: better understand the program; support their child's ongoing development and meet and support other FHC parents. FHC application forms are available from the back of both churches, or by emailing Deacon Barry barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk or Carina at carinamjarvie@aol.com or downloading a copy from the parish website <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/reconciliation-first-holy-communion/> Deacon Barry, Carina Jarvie.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (WPCU) 2025

Advanced notice: **Monday 20th - Friday 24th January 10.30am - noon, St Paul's Church Hall Dover** and concludes with an ecumenical worship Service Sunday 26th January 2025, 4.30pm River Parish Church. Programme details to follow.

WINTER SOUP KITCHEN AT ST. PAUL'S: We shall be having our Winter soup Kitchen at St. Paul's Hall every Sunday afternoon by 4pm - 6pm; starting from the 15th of December 2024. We are providing a warm space for the those who are homeless or lonely or just needing a place to chat on a Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering for this project or donating to it; kindly e-mail Claudine Nutley claudinenutley@btinternet.com or speak with Fr. Leo. Caring for the homeless and the needy in our community is a duty in Christ. Let's do our bit for the Lord. Fr. Leo.

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSAL. Please collect a Missal as you come into church and return it to the back of church after use. Please do not take the parish Missal away. If you would like to buy a personal copy to use and take home, they are £20 each. Let Mary know in the parish office if you would like to order one. Delivery of further Missals is not expected until mid-January.

ROSARY & BIBLE STUDY The next Rosary and Bible Study will take place after Christmas and New Year on **Thursday 9th January 2025.**

THE RCIA COURSE will resume on **Monday 13th January 2025.**

THE ADULT SYCAMORE COURSE AT ST PAUL'S will resume on **Wednesday 15th January 2025**

SYCAMORE COURSE FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGED 16-35 AT ST PAUL'S will resume on **Sunday 19th January 2025.**

ST PAUL'S REPOSITORY. Catholic Diaries, Advent Calendars, and Christmas Cards are available in the hall after Sunday 9:15 a.m. Mass until 10:55 a.m. each week. Also, other cards and rosaries.

ST JUDES PRAYER GROUP. It is with regret that there will be No meeting this month. The Prayer Group will recommence on **January 20th 2025 at 2pm** in St Paul's Parish Hall.

Parish of The Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal		
	January 2025	
Rosary and Bible Study at St Paul's	Thursday 9 th January 9.30am & 10.30am OT Book of Exodus.	St Paul's, Dover
RCIA Course	Monday 13 th January 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Adult Sycamore Course	Wednesday 15 th January 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Young Adult's Sycamore Course	Sunday 19 th January 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Monday 20 th January 2pm	St Paul's, Dover
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th January 10.30am	St Paul's, Dover

Please Pray for those who are unwell:

St Finbarr's: Ann McCallum, 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: David Meadows, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Chris Quinn, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, Danielle Sutton, Fr John Ryan, Pat Evans, Shirley Lazarus, Shirley Jefford, Clare Quigley, 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, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.

Please Pray for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

St Finbarr's: William Phelan, Maria Agnes Borgarello, Elizabeth Symcox, Carlos Monge, Mary Knight, Patricia Ann Golden, Gerard Patrick Moore, Teresa Breen, Helen Brazier, Ellen Jane Jarvis, Mercedes Monge, Sarah Jane Sennett, Rosanna Mary Ronan.

St Paul's: Elizabeth Ann Chidwick, Fr. David Maher, Bobbie Crascall, Eugenia Gluchowska, Ernest Alfred Huntley, Dennis Casey, Kathleen Smith, May Carroll, Victor Grant, Pauline Mahon, Bernard Skippen, Edith Millar, Brian Munro, Bernard King, Kathleen Bowles, Cliff May, Bob Francis, Isabel Baleste Fontbuena, Bob Wright, Bishop Francis Walmsley, Sr. Margaret Crawford DC, Geoffrey Donovan.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
	Saturday 21st December	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 22nd December	11.15am	Mass for Fran and Liz RIP (Bet)
CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS	Monday 23rd December	11am 5pm	CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS Until 12 noon Until 6pm
CHRISTMAS VIGIL	Tuesday 24th December	7pm	Vigil Mass for People of the Parish (Carols at 6.30pm)
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Wednesday 25th December	10.30am	Mass for Peace of Earth
THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Saturday 28th December	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
THE HOLY FAMILY	Sunday 29th December	11.15am	Mass for The Housebound
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
	Saturday 21st December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Sheila's Friends Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Fr David Maher RIP (Colin)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 22nd December	9.15am 9.15am 11am 3pm	Mass for Pauline Mahon RIP (Jim) MUSTARD SEEDS Children's Liturgy Coffee after Mass Mass for Aidan Henneker RIP (Shivaun & Fiona) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS	Monday 23rd December	10am 10.30am 5pm	Mass for Mary & Harry Curtin RIP (John & Mary) CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS Confessions at St. Paul's- After Mass- until 11:30am. Confessions at St. Paul's- 5pm to 6pm.
CHRISTMAS VIGIL	Tuesday 24th December	6pm 10pm	NO MORNING MASS Mass for People of the Parish (with children's Nativity Singing) Carols at 5.30pm) Vigil Mass for Christian families in the Parish (with Carols at 9.30pm)
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Wednesday 25th December	10am	Mass for Peace on Earth
ST STEPHEN	Thursday 26th December	10am	No Holy Rosary Mass for Bridie Kearney RIP (Philomena) No Bible Study
SAINT JOHN APOSTLE	Friday 27th December	10am	Mass for Bridie Kearney RIP
THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Saturday 28th December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Sandra (Sheila) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Helen Davies RIP (Mary Mee)
THE HOLY FAMILY	Sunday 29th December	9.15am 11am 3pm	Mass for G/E Jim (Sheila) Coffee after Mass NO MUSTARD SEEDS Mass for The Francis Family 'F' Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's avleshamsg2@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 1173050

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2024



First reading **Micah 5:2-5a**
'From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.'

Thus says the Lord:
You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of
Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the
strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall
be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R.4

**R. Bring us back, O God; let your face shine
forth, and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.
3. May your hand be on the man at your right
hand, the son of man you have confirmed as
your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading **Hebrews 10:5-10**
'Behold, I have come to do your will.'

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation **Luke 1:38**
Alleluia, alleluia.
**Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.**
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 1:39-45**
'Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

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.

These are the readings for the Midnight Mass, celebrated during the night before Christmas Day.

First reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

'A son is given to us.'

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 96(95):1-2a. 2b-3. 11-12a. 12b-13b. 13cd. R Luke 2:11

Today a Saviour has been born to us; who is Christ the Lord.

1.O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

O sing to the Lord; bless his name.

2.Proclaim his salvation day by day.

Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples.

3.Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad;
let the sea and all within it thunder praise.

Let the field and all it bears rejoice.

4.Then will all the trees of the wood shout for
joy at the presence of the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.

5.He will judge the world with justice;
and the peoples with faithfulness.

Second reading

Titus 2:11-14

'The grace of God has appeared for all people.'

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia.

I bring you good news of great joy:

for unto us is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

'Unto you is born this day a Saviour.'

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'

**These are the readings for the daytime Mass
on Christmas Day.**

First reading **Isaiah 52:7-10**
*'All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation
of our God.'*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet
of him who brings good news, who publishes
peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation, who says to Sion,
'Your God reigns.' The voice of your
watchmen — they lift up their voice; together
they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the
return of the Lord to Sion. Break forth together
into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people; he has
redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his
holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and
all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation
of our God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. R3cd
**All the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation of our God.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.
2. The Lord has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel.
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise.
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the Lord.

Second reading **Hebrews 1:1-6**
'God has spoken to us by his Son.'

Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in
these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
whom he appointed the heir of all things,
through whom also he created the world. He is
the radiance of the glory of God and the exact
imprint of his nature, and he upholds the
universe by the word of his power. After
making purification for sins, he sat down at the
right hand of the Majesty on high, having
become as much superior to angels as the name
he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.
For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'?
Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall
be to me a son'? And again, when he brings the
firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's
angels worship him.'

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia.
A hallowed day has shone upon us.
Come, O nations, and adore the Lord;
for today a great light has come down to
earth.
Alleluia.

Gospel **John 1:1-18**
'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.'
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was God. He was
in the beginning with God. All things were
made through him, and without him was not
anything made that was made. In him was life,
and the life was the light of men. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not
overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name
was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness
about the light, that all might believe through
him. He was not the light, but came to bear
witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world. He was in the
world, and the world was made through him,
yet the world did not know him. He came to his
own, and his own people did not receive him.
But to all who did receive him, who believed in
his name, he gave the right to become children
of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the
will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of
God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt
among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as
of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of
grace and truth. John bore witness about him,
and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He
who comes after me ranks before me, because
he was before me."'

For from his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace. For the law was given
through Moses; grace and truth came through
Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the
only begotten God, who is at the Father's side,
he has made him known.