



PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Weaving Together in Love

The Spiritans
British Province
Congregation of the Holy Spirit

*One Heart
One Spirit*



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
Asst: 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
Parish website: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk
Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsavle7499/streams>

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 23rd February 2025

Year C – Missal Pg. 863 Order of the Mass-Missal Pg. 470

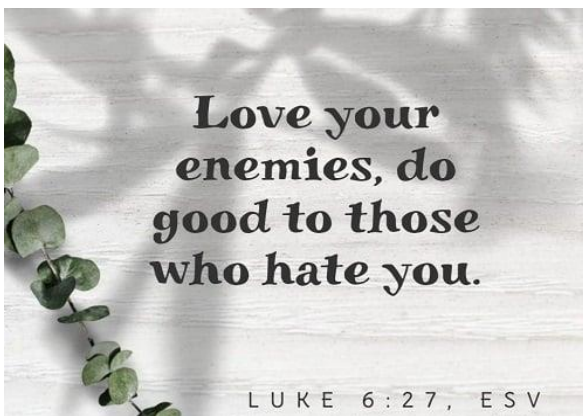
**TODAY THERE IS A SECOND COLLECTION FOR
CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**

**Congratulations to Deacon Barry & Fr. Andrew Bishop
On Their Ordination Anniversaries Today**

PRIEST CORNER: I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for all your prayers and good wishes during my birthday last week. It was a beautiful moment and it was a great joy to share it with you all. On behalf of me and my twin sister, I want to say thank you to my Parish Family. God bless you all. Fr. Godwin Alkali, CSSp.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES:

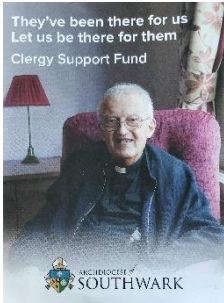
Today's Gospel, (Lk 6:27-38) gives us Jesus' revolutionary moral teaching about correct choices in our human relationships, based on the necessity of our following the "Golden Rule" and our obligation to behave like the children of a loving, forgiving, merciful, and compassionate Heavenly Father. Our relationships in our communities become truly Christian when we follow the Golden Rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you," as Jesus exemplifies it. "Love your enemies...Do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you." Jesus orders us to love our enemies and to be merciful and compassionate to everyone as God our Father is loving, merciful, and compassionate. He concludes by instructing us to stop judging others and start forgiving all who offend us.



We need to pray for the strength to forgive. At every Mass we pray the "Our Father", asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. Our challenge is to overcome our natural inclination to hate family members, co-workers, neighbours and all who offend us. To meet that challenge, we need to ask God for the strength to forgive each other. We must forgive, because only forgiveness truly heals us. If we remember how God has forgiven us, it will help us forgive others. Let us start forgiving right now by curbing the sharp tongue of criticism, suppressing the revenge instinct, and bearing patiently the irritating behaviour of a neighbour.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR. Linda Kennett, who has been editor of our newsletter for almost 4 years, has decided to move on to other ministries for the Church in Dover. We are very grateful to Linda and thank her for being an instrument for God in our Parish Community. It's not an easy task editing the newsletter and some weeks can be very time consuming. We thank Linda for her time and commitment and wish her well in her new endeavours. In the mean-time Mary, our parish secretary, will take on the role temporarily. The email address for articles will remain the same dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk. Fr Leo

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND SECOND COLLECTION



The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have one for parishes. You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan QR code. You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri **020 7960 2504** or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today at the back of Church. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



SYCAMORE Course, Fides and Bible Study, all combined session at St. Finbarr's to begin on 18th March, 7pm. Arrive for coffee, followed by inspiring videos, conversations and prayer. All are welcome.

ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY. The next Rosary and Bible Study meeting at St Paul's will be on Thursday 27th February. OT Book of Exodus. Deacon Barry.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: Ann McCallum Her funeral will be on **28th February 11am at Finbarr's Church**; and **Danielle Francoise Sutton** of Dover. Her funeral will take place at **Barham Crematorium on Friday 28th February at 3pm**, followed by refreshments in St Paul's Hall. May their Souls rest in peace. Amen. Fr Leo.

DOVER STREET PASTORS ARE HOLDING A QUIZ NIGHT Friday 28th February. Doors open 7pm for 7.30 pm start Raffle and interval games too! £3 per person with tables of 6 (accompanied children welcome) Teas, coffees and soft drinks on sale Please bring your own food (alcohol permitted) Venue: St Mary's Church Parish Centre, Cannon Street, Dover CT16 1BY To book, please email: dover@streetpastors.org.uk



FLAME: Calling all young people (16-35) to join us in attending Flame 2025, a Catholic youth event at Wembley Arena, starring Bear Grylls and others, on **March 15th, 2025**. Cost will be £30 (incl. travel). Please contact Jack 07710 430893 on WhatsApp to register. Fr. Leo and Fr. Godwin will be travelling with the young people on this event. Parents who would like to attend should also indicate.

OUR PARISH ST. PATRICK'S IRISH DAY CELEBRATION: Sunday 16th March 2pm, St Paul's hall. Afternoon Tea Party & Quiz - Bring food (sandwiches, cakes etc) to share. Tea/coffee provided.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE: If you are interested in going on a parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje in the Autumn this year, please let Mary in the parish office know, email dover@rcaos.org.uk or message 07936 573155. God bless, Fr Leo.

Parish of The Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal		
	February/March 2025	
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Saturday 9.30am	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Sunday 9.30am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Adult SYCAMORE Course	Every Wednesday 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
SYCAMORE Course for Young Adults	Every Sunday 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
Winter Soup Kitchen	Every Sunday 4pm – 6pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday 5 th March Mass	St Paul's 10am & 7pm St Finbarr's 10.15am
Sacristan & Altar Server Training	Sun 9 th Mar after 11am Mass	St Paul's, Dover
Sacristan & Altar Server Training	Sun 23 rd Mar after 11.15 Mass	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
St Patrick's Irish Day Celebration Tea Party	Sunday 16 th March 2pm	St Paul's Hall
SYCAMORE Course, Fides & Bible Study, all combined session	Starting Tuesday 18 th March 7pm	St. Finbarr's, Aylesham.

ANNUAL ACT OF REMEMBRANCE for the Zeebrugge Disaster takes place on Thursday 6th March 10:30am, Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club 4-5 Waterloo Crescent Dover CT16 1LA. Following reading the roll and prayers there will be tea/coffee and a chance to talk, followed by a walk to the end of the Marina Pier for those who wish for a final act of remembrance. All welcome. Canon David Slater, Lead Chaplain to the Port of Dover.

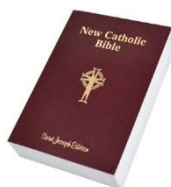
ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE CELEBRATION DAY AT THE FRIARS AYLESFORD 7TH JUNE 2025

Led by Archbishop John Wilson, we will gather as an Archdiocese at The Friars, Aylesford for a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. There will be lots of activities, for children as well as for adults. This will be the centre-piece event of the 2025 Jubilee in the Archdiocese of Southwark. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars (2-6 June 2025). at rcaos.org.uk/jubilee2025. **The parish may arrange a coach. If you would like to go please let Mary in the parish office know, email dover@rcaos.org.uk or message 07936 573155. God bless, Fr Leo.**

CATECHISM ON THE BIBLE.

1. **How many books are contained in the Catholic Bible?** 73. (46 OT and 27 NT).
2. **When was the Canon of the Bible approved by the Church?** At the Council of Rome, AD 382, the Church decided upon a canon of 46 Old Testament books (including the Deuterocanonical books), and 27 New Testament books. This decision was ratified and confirmed by the councils at Hippo (393), Carthage (397, 419), II Nicaea (787), Florence (1442), and Trent (1546)
3. **Name your five favourite books of the Bible....**
4. **What are your three memory verses of the Bible?**
5. **What is the List of the 7 Deuterocanonical books?** The Deuterocanonical books or the Apocrypha are the Seven books of the Bible and small portions of Esther and Daniel which are not present in the Hebrew Bible of the Jews nor in modern Protestant Bibles. They are 1) Judith, 2) Baruch, 3) Sirach (Ecclesiastes), 4) Wisdom, 5) Tobit, 6) Maccabees I and 7) Maccabees II. Further, additions to Esther (Vulgate Esther 10:4-16:24) and additions to Daniel: (Prayer of Azariah and Song of the Three Holy Children, Bel and the Dragon)

The origin of the Torah of the Old Testament: The name given to first five books of the Bible -- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Numbers – is **Torah** in Hebrew, **Pentateuch** in Greek. The matter presented in these books was handed down from generation to generation orally until the ninth century BC. Since the Israelites had come into close contact with the Egyptians and other ancient groups, the oral traditions in Israel were influenced partly by the traditions of other people as well. Moses (1391–1271 BC), is considered the first to collect the traditions of Israel and to draft and amplify the God-given commandments and laws. But it was during the reign of Solomon (970-931 BC), that Israel became a big and powerful nation, with the new Temple of the Lord God in Jerusalem serving as the nation's religious centre.



King Solomon felt the need to collect all the religious traditions of Israel from the 12 tribes of Israel. He invited all tribal heads and those specialized in teaching those traditions to his royal palace and appointed scribes to take down in Hebrew language whatever had been traditionally handed down in their tribes. Along with tribal traditions of Israel, the result included the teachings given by Moses and later leaders. Since Moses, raised in Pharaoh's court as a Prince, was literate, he might have kept some written documents of the laws and commandments received from God. All these written documents formed the nucleus from which the Torah developed in the later centuries. Finally, a few centuries after Solomon, a group of editors assembled all religious beliefs and traditions of Israel previously collected during the reign of Solomon, put them in a definite order, and made the final edition of the five books of the Torah. They were later copied and recopied on processed leather and copper sheets. During Jesus' time, leather scrolls containing the Torah and prophetic writings were available in all Jewish synagogues.

Please Pray for those who are unwell:

St Finbarr's: Audrey Stitt, 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: Roz & Rob Pain, Rosa Mazzitelli, David Meadows, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Chris Quinn, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, 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, 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: Christopher Lonie, Robert Irving, Francesco Cordani, Mavis Ann Bremner, Jane McCallum, Frederick Doncaster, Marlene Marguerita Watson, Denise Margaret Morris, Mary Maureen O'Reilly, Rosannah Kelly, Anna Watson, Derek John Cousins.

St Paul's: Jim Healy, John Medhurst, Catherine (Kitty) Kiely, Aniela Lukaszczyk, John Reidy, Angela Moyes, John Daniel Deegan, Vincent McGurk, James McNena, Tony McMullan, Margaret Donaldson, Roger Hurst, Pamela Josephine Manning, Richard Murphy, Helen Curling, John Enrico Celso Franci, Sr. Monica Doyle DC, Guerino Macari, Janet Hodgson, May Moran, Kevin Anthony Fox, John Coen, Angela Tivnan, Mary Bridget Willis, Albert John Townhill, Alfred Frank White, Robert Little, Mary Scullion, Ian Barber.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE	Saturday 22nd February	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 23rd February	11.15am	NO First Holy Communion preparation in the Church Mass for G/E Father Jamie (Anne & Jeremy)
	Wednesday 26th February	10.15am	Mass for 'Our Dear Priests' Frs. Leo, Godwin & Jamie
	Friday 28th February	11am	Funeral Service for Ann McCallum RIP
ST. DAVID, BISHOP, PATRON OF WALES	Saturday 1st March	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 2nd March	9.30am 11.15am	First Holy Communion preparation in the Church Mass for All Deceased Miners of Aylesham
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE	Saturday 22nd February	10am 5pm 6pm	NO First Holy Communion preparation (Half Term) Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Sr Margaret Canny RIP (Keith, Theresa & Laura Ann) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for The Speedy Recovery of Father Jamie (Keith & Theresa)
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 23rd February	9.15am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Deacon Barry's 22 nd Diaconate Ordination Coffee after Mass Mass for Father Andrew's 1 st Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Sycamore Course for Young Adults
	Monday 24th February	10am 7pm	Mass for G/E Sandra (Sheila) The RCIA course in the Upper Hall
ST ETHELBERT, KING	Tuesday 25th February	10am	Mass for Ian Barber RIP 8 th Anniversary (Colin)
	Wednesday 26th February	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for G/E Nancy (Sheila) Exposition and Holy Rosary (to 6.30pm) The Adult Sycamore Course in the hall
	Thursday 27th February	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary in the church Mass for Richard John Willson & Emily Willson 'F' Bible Study in the hall OT Book of Exodus
	Friday 28th February	10am 3pm	Mass for St Anne Line, Blessed Roger Filcock and The Tyburn Martyrs (Colin) BARHAM CREM Funeral Service for Danielle Sutton Followed by refreshments in St Paul's Hall from 4pm
ST. DAVID, BISHOP, PATRON OF WALES	Saturday 1st March	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall. Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Veronika & Ivo Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for G/E Kathleen Quigley
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 2nd March	9.15am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Mary & Harry Curtin RIP (John & Mary) Coffee after Mass Mass for Chris Francis RIP (Jane) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Sycamore Course for Young Adults

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's ayleshamsg2@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: dovertnewsletter@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 23RD FEBRUARY 2025

First reading

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

'The Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.' But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?' So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. David said, 'Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103(102):1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R8a

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.
The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.
The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our
transgressions.

As a father has compassion on his children,
the Lord's compassion is on those who fear
him.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

'Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.'

Brothers and Sisters: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,

that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'

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.