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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

30th NOVEMBER 2025 - Missal P1 Order of the Mass P470

We Welcome Fr. Eamonn Mulchay CSSp for our Advent Retreat this weekend

PRIEST CORNER: Dear Parish Family, last Sunday I announced to you about the change in the Parish in the new year. I have been appointed to a leadership role as the Provincial Secretary of my religious Order, and I will be moving to the headquarters of my Order in Manchester to fulfil this role. Fr. Gabriel will effectively take over as Parish Priest from **10th January 2026**. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served you; God is gracious to us and let us thank Him for our Parish in Dover and Aylesham as we pray for Fr. Gabriel and Fr. Jamie for the future. God bless. Fr. Leo

GOSPEL REFLECTION: LUKE 21:5-19. Advent is a time of hope which propels us to get ready for something great. Preparation is very important in achieving any set goal hence advent is a time we get ourselves ready to receive Jesus in a special way into our hearts and homes. Looking out everywhere, there are lots of commercial outward signs of that preparation for receiving Jesus but how are we preparing our hearts, our spiritual spaces for the reception of Jesus? Isaiah in the first reading saw a great vision of an event that will change the lives of the people and bring peace hence he invites us to walk in the light of the Lord. This invitation will make the people to rejoice in the house of the Lord as the Psalmist puts it in the responsorial psalm *“Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord”*. St. Paul also invites us to wake up from our sleep by changing our ways of life that do not correspond to our vocation as followers of Jesus because our salvation is very near. We cannot be ready enough



unless we understand that we have been given the privilege of being member of the body of Christ and have received the message of salvation more than the people in the time of Noah. As we start our Advent today, let us ask God for the grace to live our lives daily in accordance to the mission of Jesus in the world and in that way be ready always to meet him.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2026 GROUP St Paul's and St Finbarr's. The First Holy Communion (FHC) preparation program 2026 commences on **SATURDAY 3rd January 9.30am, St Paul's Church Hall**, and on **SUNDAY 4th January 9.30am, at St Finbarr's Church**. This is the first of the weekly preparation classes and will continue on successive Saturdays at St Paul's and Sundays at St Finbarr's until June 2026, with the exception of half and end of term school holidays. The move to Sunday mornings before the 11am Mass from Saturday mornings at St Finbarr's continues 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 will be available from next weekend at 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 along with additional information at:

<https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/reconciliation-first-holy-communion/>

Deacon Barry, Carina Jarvie.

SECOND COLLECTION. There will be a second collection next Sunday, 7th December for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, SVP.

ST FINBARR'S Christmas raffle tickets - These will be on sale after Mass at St. Finbarr's from this Sunday, 30th of November. The prize draw will be on our Carol service night, the 17th December. All proceeds will go towards funding of parish projects.

CALLING FOR A SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR - Are you interested in creating and maintaining social media presence for **St Finbarr's**? Your services are needed. Please come forward and speak to Fr Leo, Carina, Esiri or Agne.

SHOP EARLY - 2026 Catholic Diaries, Advent Calendars, Christmas and other cards plus rosaries, etc. are on sale in **St Paul's Hall** every **Sunday between 10am and 10:55 am**

JAMAICA HURRICANE MELISSA APPEAL. We pray for all those who have been affected by the recent hurricane in Jamaica. We encourage those who can, to donate through the Parish to CAFOD and CARITAS for the victims. God bless, Fr. Leo.

MUSTARD SEEDS. There will be **NO Mustard Seeds** in December for either the Junior or Youth Group. However, we will hold our **Christmas Party** for both groups after **11:00 Mass on Sunday, 21st December, 12pm- 3pm.** Thank you to all those children who have joined us throughout the year. We hope many of you can join us for the Christmas Nativity.

THE MUSTARD SEEDS CHRISTMAS NATIVITY. Families who would like their child or children between the ages of 3-15 to take part in the Nativity at **St Paul's Catholic Church** during the **Christmas Eve Mass on Wednesday, 24th December**, are warmly invited to join us! **Rehearsals** will take place after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on **Sundays 7th, 14th, and 21st December**, lasting around 30 minutes. Squash and snacks will be provided. We will meet in the **Upper Room** in the church hall.

WINTER SOUP KITCHEN (WSK) ST PAUL'S CHURCH HALL every **Sunday afternoon from 4pm - 6pm.** We provide a warm space for 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, please e-mail Claudine Nutley claudinenutley@btinternet.com or phone early evening only 01304 830275, or speak to Fr. Leo or Fr. Gabriel. 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.

ST PAUL'S BEAVER SCOUTS GROUP needs more members! Do you have a child aged 6-8 who loves learning new skills, going on adventures and making friends? Beavers runs **every Monday** in term time between **5-6pm at St Paul's Parish Hall.** Each session costs £3 or £30 per term (12 weeks). This year we gained skills in first aid, road safety, cooking and crafting! Trips have included climbing and Howletts to name only two! For more information please contact **Dave via the Scout website** https://www.doverdistrictscouts.org.uk/spage-groups-18th_dover_shepherdswell.html or speak to **Henry Briant** (11am choir).

FAMILIA UNA-YOUNG ADULTS GROUP Faith and Life meetings this and **every Sunday, at 6.15pm** in the Upper Room of St Paul's Hall. If you are age 15 and above, up to 40 years old, please join us for the Holy Rosary, for worship songs and uplifting talks on Faith and Life. We will like to invite you to join our **Youth Mass on 7th December, 11am Mass** followed by Familia Una Christmas Party. Join us.

THE ADULT RCIA COURSE continues every Monday **7pm in St Paul's Upper Hall.** If you know of someone who would be interested in joining the Catholic Faith please invite them along.

HOLY ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S. The next recitation of the rosary will take place at 9.30am on **Thursday, 4th December** and the bible study immediately after the 10.00am Mass. **OT Book of Exodus.**

THE FIDES PRAYER SESSION – ST PAUL'S. The last two sessions of our Fides Group for this year will be: **Wednesdays 26th November and 3rd December.** They will continue the theme for the over 60s. All welcome to join us for light refreshment, prayer, song, inspiring video and vibrant discussion.

MOTHER'S PRAYERS We are delighted to invite all mothers to join Mother's Prayers, a special gathering for women to come together and pray for our children. This is a warm and welcoming space for fellowship, support, and spiritual encouragement. If you would like to join a group or are interested in hosting your own prayer meeting, please contact Nadine at 07362 514245 or naddichecks@gmail.com. Come, let us lift our children up in prayer together.

ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KENT 2026, ST RICHARD'S, DOVER AND ST JOSEPH'S AYLESHAM Apply online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places> Closes midnight on **Thursday, 15th January 2026**, for children born between **1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022**, transferring to Primary School in September 2026. Hard A4 copies of information sheet spanning 'What to do', 'Key Dates' and 'Need Help' are available at the back of both churches. **St. Richard's Primary School Open Events** day **Thursday, 4th December at 9.30am.**

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN DOVER, 'SHINE THE LIGHT'; ECUMENICAL CAROL SINGING

Please join other Christians in **St James Square, 2pm, Saturday 13th December**, to sing Christmas carols.

DOVER YOUTH ORCHESTRA will be performing their Christmas Concert at Our Lady of Dover Church on **Thursday, 18th December** starting at 6.30pm. To help with funding for the Orchestra there will be a £5 charge per ticket. Tickets will be available on the night or in advance in which case please contact myself, Len Stevens on 01304 215466 or 07958 234123. Thank you.

ST FINBARR'S DRAMA You may remember that early in the year we were looking for adult actors to perform a Christmas play. We jumped the gun! If we are going to put on a production of a play we would have to prepare properly for it. This would involve speech exercises, acting and performing skills, scene study, and some talks by professionals about the theatre. We need to discover whether there are at least five adults, both men and women of various backgrounds, who would be interested. No previous experience is necessary. When the time is ripe, we shall include enthusiasts under the age of 18. If this project appeals to you, please email notwithstanding.scripts@btinternet.com Thank you, Jeremy Rowe.

| Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal, 2025 | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy | Every Third Sunday 9am Resumes January 2026 | St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover |
| St Jude's Prayer Group | Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm | St Paul's Hall, Dover |
| Winter Soup Kitchen | Every Sunday 4pm – 6pm | St Paul's Hall, Dover |
| 'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group | Every Sunday 6.15pm | St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover |
| Fides Prayer Group | Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm | St Paul's Hall, Dover |
| Junior Youth Group | Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm Resumes January 2026 | St Paul's Hall, Dover |
| RCIA Course | Every Monday 7pm | St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover |
| Parish Advent Retreat | Friday to Sunday 28 th - 30 th November Friday 6pm -7pm Saturday 11am - 3pm | St Paul's, Dover |
| Christmas Nativity Rehearsals | Sunday 7 th , 14 th and 21 st December After 9am Mass | St Paul's Upper Room, Dover |
| Christmas Carols | Sunday 14 th December 7pm | St. Paul's, Dover |
| Christmas Carols | Wednesday 17 th December 7pm | St. Finbarr's, Aylesham |

CATECHISM - Did God abandon man after Adam fell into sin?

God did not abandon man after Adam fell into sin but promised to send into the world a Saviour to free man from his sins and to reopen to him the gates of heaven. The event of Advent reminds us about the great love that God has for us by coming in the form of a man as to draws us closer for our salvation. God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary to prepare her for accepting to be a channel through which God will come to us in a way that we can be free to approach him. God has not abandoned us rather he is with us always.



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: Carol Manton, Oliver O'Connor, Peter Grilli, Helen Scopes, John Doyle, Maria Frost, Roz & Rob Pain, Rosa Mazzitelli, David Meadows, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, Pat Evans, Shirley Lazarus, Shirley Jefford, 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 death anniversaries occur this week:

St Finbarr's: Frances Donnachie, James Turnbull, Mona Stuart, Lesley Cooke, Patrick Joseph Daly, Hazel Mary Garstin.

St Paul's: Sheila May Willson, Mary Loughlin, Ellen Davis, Joyce Hall, Winnie Sykes, Vi Nicholls, Jack Delbaere, Joseph Brady, Elizabeth Smith, Antonio de Cicco, Fr Whelan, Alice Sumner, David McVey, Henry Gartland, Clare Nicholas, Samuel Marsden, Maureen Tugwell.

| EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Sunday 30 th November | 11am | Mass for Christians in Northern Nigeria |
| | Wednesday 3 rd December | 10am | Mass for Victims of the Fire in Hong Kong |
| SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Sunday 7 th December | 11am | Mass for Swigon, Kuchek, Gluchowski and Koejan Families (Eva, Meareka & Magdalena) |
| EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S | | | |
| SAINTS CUTHBERT MAYNE AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS OR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. | Saturday 29 th November | 10am 11am 5pm 6pm | Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Eddie & Maureen (Sheila) PARISH ADVENT RETREAT in the Hall until 3pm Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass and Interment of Ashes of Barbara Monclus Arthur Joseph Price 'F' |
| FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Sunday 30 th November | 9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6.15pm | Mass for Umberto & Vittoria Corbo (Lina DeCicco) Coffee after Mass Mass for Ken Gordon RIP (Theresa) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una (Adult Youth Group) in the Upper Hall |
| SAINTS EDMUND CAMPION, RALPH SHERWIN AND ALEXANDER BRIANT, PRIESTS AND MARTYRS | Monday 1 st December | 10am | Mass In Thanksgiving (Donna) |
| | Tuesday 2 nd December | 10am | Mass for James Fleetwood 'F' |
| SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST, MEMORIAL | Wednesday 3 rd December | 10am 5:30pm 7pm | Mass for G/E Fr. Godwin (Mary) Exposition and Holy Rosary (until 6.30pm) Fides Prayer Group in the Hall |
| SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH | Thursday 4 th December | 9:30am 10am 10.30am | Holy Rosary Ordinariate Mass for The Knighton Family (Sheila) Bible Study in the Hall (OT Book of Exodus). |
| SAINT JOHN ALMOND, PRIEST AND MARTYR | Friday 5 th December | 10am | Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert) |
| SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP. | Saturday 6 th December | 10am 5pm 6pm | Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Paul Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Ilona Parker 'F' |
| SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Sunday 7 th December | 9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6.15pm | Mass for Antonio Decicco RIP (Lina) Ann Fisher 80 th Birthday (Malcolm and Family) Coffee after Mass Mass for Anne -Marie Holiday RIP (Cathy) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una (Adult Youth Group) in the Upper Hall |

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 30th November 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

'The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.'

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Sion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122(121): 1-2. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R cf. 1

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

Or: Alleluia

I rejoiced when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

Or: Alleluia

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as it is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
There were set the thrones for judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

Or: Alleluia

For the peace of Jerusalem pray,
'May they prosper, those who love you.'
May peace abide in your walls,
and security be in your towers.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

Or: Alleluia

For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, 'Peace upon you.'
For the sake of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will seek good things for you.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

Or: Alleluia

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14a

'Salvation is nearer to us now.'

Brothers and Sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, O LORD, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia.

Psalm 85(84):8

Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

'Stay awake so that you may be ready.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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.