

Congregation of the Holy Spirit

St Paul's Presbytery 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ

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Parish website: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/

St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover

https://www.voutube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 - Missal P5 Order of the Mass P470

# SECOND COLLECTION FOR ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

**PRIEST CORNER:** On behalf of Fr. Godwin and the Spiritans, I want to sincerely thank all our Parishioners for the beautiful show of support for Fr. Godwin during his induction ceremony on Thursday last week; the 4<sup>th</sup> of December at Chatham. A lot of people made sacrifices, both from Dover and Aylesham. It was a bold statement of how much we appreciate the time and ministry of Fr. Godwin while he was with us here in the Parish. Thank you for supporting the Spiritan mission in Dover and all over the UK and beyond. We continue our prayers for Fr. Godwin. Thank you and God bless. Fr. Leo. HAPPY 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO ANN FISHER!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A.



The mission of Jesus Christ was foretold in days of old through the prophets and the preparation for his coming was emphasized by John the Baptist. Prophet Isaiah was explaining the vision of what will happen with the coming of the Messiah. His coming will bear fruit of kindness which will transform the situations of the poor. It will be the dawning of peace as wolf and lamb will live together in peace, calf and lion will feed together and there will be no more danger as children of God will live in freedom and peace. His reign will bring joy and peace. All these beautiful prophesies are for us and to gain it, we need prepare and be ready to embrace the new ways

of life that Jesus brings to us. Preparing to meet Jesus at Christmas requires checking that we meet the conditions that will help us achieve his mission. John the Baptist gave us two of the conditions that are important which will help us to meet the requirements for encountering Jesus and making his mission realized. He invites us to a life of repentance and of making the way for the Lord to be straight which is referring to our hearts. The psalmist says, "In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace forever". All these are possible with our relationships with one another. When we chose peace, love and forgiveness then we are already experiencing his days of justice and peace. The fulfilment of the prophesy of Isaiah starts with each one of us as we prepare to receive the prince of peace.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2026 GROUP St Paul's and St Finbarr's 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. 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 at the back both churches, or by emailing Deacon Barry barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk or at <u>carinamjarvie@aol.com</u> or downloading a copy from the parish website, along with additional information at: https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/reconcilliation-first-holy-communion/ Deacon Barry, Carina Jarvie.

**NEXT WEEKEND** there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for Christmas Flowers.

**FAMILIA UNA-YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**: The Adult Youth Group are sponsoring our Mass at 11am this Sunday. They will be in charge of the readings, collections, welcoming, serving Mass, etc. All young adults between the ages 16 to 40 are invited to join the Christmas Party after the 11am Mass in the hall. This will mark the last activity for the year. They will restart in January. God bless. Fr. Leo

**COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER:** Cash & CollecTin £2874.93; Bankers Orders £3,472.00; Second Collections: Archbishop's Administration Fund £328.71; Catholic Youth Service £175.65; November Holy Souls £250 Thank you for your generosity. Fr Leo.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who helped and contributed towards our Parish Christmas Bazaar at St Paul's. It was a successful event which raised an amazing amount of around £900.00. Hopefully this will become an annual event again. The Bazaar Team.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY.** Congratulations to Anne Marie De Jaegar, who celebrated her 95th birthday on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. May God continue to bless her and keep her safe along with all our older parishioners. Deacon Barry.

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, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 12pm-2pm. Thank you to all those children who have joined us throughout the year.

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 start today, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and on 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.

**ST FINBARR'S** Christmas raffle tickets - These are now on sale after Mass at St. Finbarr's. The prize draw will be on our Carol service night, the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. All proceeds will go towards funding of parish projects.

THE ADULT RCIA COURSE continues every Monday 7pm in St Paul's Upper Hall. Please note that last meeting before Christmas will be Monday, 14th December and will restart on Monday, 19th January 2026.

**HOLY ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S.** The next recitation of the rosary will take place at 9.30am on **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025** and the bible study immediately after the 10.00am Mass. **OT Book of Exodus**.

THE FIDES PRAYER SESSION – ST PAUL'S. The last session of the Fides Group for this year will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We will resume in January. Date to be confirmed.

**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 Agnes

**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 <u>claudinenutley@btinternet.com</u> 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.

JOIN THE INAUGURAL STELLA MARIS LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: MON 25<sup>th</sup> – SAT 30<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026. We warmly welcome serving or retired seafarers, fishers, and their families to spend six grace-filled days of prayer, healing, and fellowship in the beautiful sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. All major costs will be covered (including travel, accommodation, and meals), making it possible for anyone to join and fully enjoy the pilgrimage without worry. To register your interest, or request further information: Rev Dcn John Fogarty: john.fogarty@stellamarismail.org 07986 723015 Hugh Ramsay: hugh.ramsay@stellamarismail.org 07432 654032

**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 <a href="mailto:naddichecks@gmail.com">naddichecks@gmail.com</a>. Come, let us lift our children up in prayer together.

**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** 

**DOVER YOUTH ORCHESTRA** will be performing their Christmas Concert at Our Lady of Dover Church on **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December** starting at 6.30 pm. 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 <u>notwithstanding.scripts@btinternet.com</u> Living theatre explores conversation, the physical conflicting of people with different opinions, discussion of people's ideas and principles, justice and injustice, visible despair and hope. Reach out and make contacts if you are able to. *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		
Fides Prayer Group	Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm Final session this week	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		
Christmas Nativity Rehearsals	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> December After 9am Mass	St Paul's Upper Room, Dover		
Christmas Carols	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 7pm	St. Paul's, Dover		
Christmas Carols	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 7pm	St. Finbarr's, Aylesham		

**CATECHISM:** Key Catholic Family Practices for Advent: Advent is a great time of beauty in Catholic



families. We have some traditional practices around the Advent Wreath. The advent wreath is a visible sign; a circular wreath of evergreen (symbolizing God's eternal love); Four candles: **three purple, one pink;** One candle is lit each Sunday of Advent, with prayers and sometimes hymns. The **third Sunday**, *Gaudete Sunday*, uses the pink candle as a sign of joyful anticipation. Families often pray together as they light the candle each week. Catholic Families are encouraged to read the scripture and pray the family evening time around the wreath. **The Advent Calendar is also another** joyful way for families, especially with children to mark the countdown to Christmas. Encourage all the members of the family to

also receive and celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation as a great way of preparation. Remember that the Nativity scene is set up early in Advent, but the **baby Jesus is not placed in the manger until Christmas Eve.** 

## 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: Sir Hugh Bidwell, Michael McIntyre, Joseph Arthur Kelly, James Connolly, Francis (Frank) Deary.

St Paul's: Richard Marshall, Daniel Scannell, James Mahon, Mary Butcher, Eric Smitten, Charlotte Hill, Ilona Parker, Arthur John Evans, Baby Lucia Horvathova, Susan Varney, Howard Wilson, Colin Todd, Christian Heynen, Derek Friend, John Peers, Adrienne Wright, Gertrude Iverson, Betty Chapman, Albert Fletcher, Horace Francis Munro, Harry Curtin, Audrey Margaret Naylor, Malcolm Brenchley, Joachim Elliott, Sr Margaret Canny UJ,

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S				
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	11am	Mass for Swigon, Kuchcik, Gluchowski and Kocjan Families (Eva, Mareka & Magdalena)	
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Mass for Peace in Ukraine	
	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Mass for Victims of the floods in Indonesia	
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	11am	Mass for Teresa Breen and Mary Graves (Bridget)	
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S				
SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP.	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Paul Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass and interment of Ashes of Clare Quigley Ilona Parker 'F'	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	9am 11am 12noon 3pm 4pm	Mass for Antonio Decicco RIP (Lina) Ann Fisher 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (Malcolm and Family) Coffee after Mass Mass for Anne-Marie Holiday RIP (Cathy) Familia Una Christmas Party in the Hall until 3.30pm Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm NO Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una	
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	10am 7pm	Mass for Anne-Marie Holiday RIP (Margaret McHugh) Victims of floods in Indonesia	
SAINT JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN OR SAINTS JOHN ROBERTS, POLYDORE PLASDEN AND EUSTACE WHITE, PRIESTS AND MARTYRS	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Mass for Maria Hughes (Anne and Peter)	
OUR LADY OF LORETO	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	10am 5:30pm 7pm	Mass for Margaret Page 'F' Exposition and Holy Rosary (until 6.30pm) Fides Prayer Group in the Hall	
SAINT DAMASUS I, POPE OR SAINT EDMUND GENNINGS, PRIEST AND SAINT SWITHUN WELLS, MARTYRS	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Helen Knott RIP (Tina Irving -James) Bible Study in the Hall (OT Book of Exodus).	
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, COMMON OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Mass for Horace Munro RIP (Moya)	
SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Fredric Compton 'F' Sister Margaret Canny – 1st Anniversary (Colin) Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Harry and Mary Curtin RIP (John and Mary)	
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 7pm	Mass for Deceased members of the Castle Family (Anne & Peter) Coffee after Mass Mass for Ian Thomas Barber RIP (Colin) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm Christmas Carols	

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

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For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the Editor: <a href="mailto:dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk">dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk</a> 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 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

'With righteousness he shall judge the poor.'

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. $\aleph$ cf. 7

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever. Or: Alleluia

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement.

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Or: Alleluia

In his days justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever. Or: Alleluia

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever. Or: Alleluia

May his name endure for ever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed.

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever. Or: Alleluia

**Second Reading** 

Romans 15:4-9

'Christ saves humanity.'

Brothers and Sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

# Acclamation before the Gospel Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia. Luke 3:4, 6

Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." '

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

## **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.