



St Paul's Presbytery 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU  
St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ  
Parish Priest: Fr Gabriel Onoyima CSSp 01304 206766 [gabrielonoyima@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:gabrielonoyima@rcaos.org.uk)  
Asst: Fr Jamie Houghton 07955 242324 [jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk)  
Deacon Barry Barton: 07715 546938 [barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk)  
Parish Secretary: 07936 573155 [dover@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dover@rcaos.org.uk)  
St Finbarr's: [aylesham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aylesham@rcaos.org.uk)  
Parish website: [www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk](http://www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk)  
Parish Giving: [www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/](http://www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/)  
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: [www.churchservices.tv/dover](http://www.churchservices.tv/dover)  
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499streams>

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR A – 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026

*Missal P91 Order of the Mass P470*

**We Welcome Father Gabriel as our New Parish Priest  
We wish him Every Blessing in his New Ministry**

### PRIEST'S CORNER:

We remain grateful to all that Fr Leo did in our parish. He is also very appreciative of the love you have shown him throughout the time he was serving us and all the gifts and words of appreciations extended to him as he departs to a new mission. We are planning to have his **farewell for both parishes on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January at St Paul's** with a Holy Mass celebrated by him. The time for the Mass needs to be changed to accommodate all your expressions of love and farewell to him. **The Mass will start by 5pm** instead of 6pm. After the Mass, all of us are invited to the hall for a meal and celebration. We wish the celebration to take the shape of a family meal where everyone who is able to cook and bring and we share. **Please could we let Mary know the type of dish you wish to bring before 28<sup>th</sup> of January** as it will help us in coordination. **On Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, he will celebrate the 9am Mass at St Paul's and 11am at St Finbarr's** to thank the people for their love. To support Fr Leo's ongoing missionary work, we are planning to have a **Special Collection for him next weekend on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January**. Kindly express your love for him as he is starting a new challenging ministry.

**Fr Leo has kindly asked that his contacts should be published for you:**

**SPIRITAN PROVINCIAL HOUSE, 61 LEICESTER ROAD, SALFORD, MANCHESTER M7 4DA**

### GOSPEL REFLECTION:



A primary school teacher whose classes were always the best in the school was once asked about her technique that makes her class children to perform so well. She responded, "I always become one with my class children by using the same type of chair as they, eating what they eat with them during meal and playing with them during break". This by no means indicates that the teacher and the children are of the same level but in so doing the children gained the trust of the teacher. Jesus in the gospel of today came to John for baptism. Not because he needed the baptism but to teach us by example what we need to do to become adopted sons and daughters of God. After his baptism, the voice of the Father confirmed him to be his beloved son, and the Holy Spirit bore witness to that. The baptism became another manifestation of Jesus to the world. It was after his baptism that Jesus' ministry started. In the same way, once we are baptized, God confirms us to be his sons or daughters and we then receive the Holy Spirit that empowers and sends us into the world to continue the ministry of Jesus.

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ST. PAUL'S HAS BEEN SUSPENDED** We hope to restart at Easter but need more people to volunteer, especially the younger generation, to keep this important ministry going. Thank you to all those who have been involved in this ministry over the years. If you would like to volunteer please speak to Fr. Gabriel.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARILYN BURROWS** Many from St. Finbarr's will have known Marilyn Burrows, who died recently. Marilyn was a great friend of St. Finbarr's, being part of the Tuesday Tea team for many years, and latterly organising a monthly Tea at St. Finbarr's in aid of SVP funds. Her generous heart was open to anyone in any kind of need. For those who would like to remember Marilyn, a **Memorial Service is to be held at St. Peter's Church, Aylesham, this Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm**, followed by refreshments.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Jeanette Peters who has died. Jeanette's funeral will take place **on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon at St Finbarr's**, followed by burial at Aylesham cemetery. Also, please pray for **Kenneth Atmore**, Brian Atmore's brother, who passed peacefully away at home on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Ken's funeral will take place at **St John Vianney Church Bexleyheath on 28<sup>th</sup> January at 10.15am**. May Jeanette and Ken Rest in Peace, Amen.

**LOST and FOUND** A ring has been found in St Paul's church. If you have lost one please contact Mary in the parish office tel 07936 573155.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2026 GROUP** FHC classes at St Paul's and St Finbarr's has begun. FHC classes at St Paul's will be in the hall on **Saturdays at 9.30am** and at St Finbarr's in the church on **Sundays at 9.30am**.

**THE FIDES PRAYER SESSION – ST PAUL'S** will resume on Wednesday **21<sup>st</sup> January, at 6:40 for 7pm** in the parish hall.

**THE ADULT RCIA COURSE** is on a break and will restart on **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

**HOLY ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S** every Thursday at 9.30am and the bible study immediately after the 10.00am Mass. **OT Book of Exodus**.

**MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY** Mustard Seeds children's liturgy group will be moving to **11am Mass as of next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January**. We shall meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. This is in an effort to increase our numbers, as they have dwindled over the last year at the 9am Mass. All primary school children are invited to join us. Younger children may attend with a parent or older sibling (they need to be able to join in & toilet trained). Please join us to share the gospel in a fun and interactive way. Thanks, Laura, Maeve, Henry and Jan.

**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.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026** Come and celebrate the Week's overall theme, 'One Body, One Spirit', Ephesians 4:4 with Christians from different denominations across Dover, through different facilitated daily themes. **ALL ARE WELCOME**. Deacon Barry, WPCU 2026 Coordinator 07715 546938 [barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk)

<b>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026 - SCHEDULED</b>			
<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Daily Themes</b>	<b>Organisational Lead</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30 am Refreshments</b>	<b>St Paul's Church Hall Dover</b>	<b>Our Call to Unity</b>	<b>David Slater Dover Port Chaplaincy</b>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30 am Refreshments</b>	<b>St Paul's Church Hall Dover</b>	<b>The Bond of Peace</b>	<b>Alan Boxall Dover Food Bank</b>
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 10.30 am Refreshments</b>	<b>St Paul's Church Hall Dover</b>	<b>Bearing with One Another in Love</b>	<b>Noel Beamish Dover Sunrise Cafe</b>
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 10.30 am Refreshments</b>	<b>St Paul's Church Hall Dover</b>	<b>Call to One Hope</b>	<b>Carol Boxall Dover Street Pastors</b>
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 10.30 am Refreshments</b>	<b>St Paul's Church Hall Dover</b>	<b>One God Over All</b>	<b>Peter Wallace Dover Outreach Centre</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 3pm</b>	<b>St Paul's Catholic Church, Dover</b>	<b>Ecumenical Worship Service</b>	<b>St Paul's Clergy</b>

**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> closes midnight on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, for children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, transferring to Primary School in September 2026.

**AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: A CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS RESOURCE.** The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched an exciting apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" or "does prayer work?". Ambassadors for Christ is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness for the Lord Jesus and his Church. Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, along with a worksheet to enable parishes, schools, youth groups and families to use them as part of their faith formation. To watch the videos and take part in this exciting project, please visit: [rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist](http://rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist).

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal, 2025		
Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy	Every First and Third Sunday 11am Next – 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
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
Winter Soup Kitchen	Every Sunday 4pm – 6pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group	Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm Resumes 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Junior Youth Group	Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm Resumes 19 <sup>th</sup> January	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover

## CATECHISM



### What is baptism and what effect does it have on a person?

Baptism is the sacrament that gives our souls the new life of sanctifying grace by which we become children of God and heirs of heaven. Our adoption as sons of God through sanctifying grace is more perfect than human adoption whereby children are adopted by foster parents. In human adoption nothing is given to the foster son that makes him similar to the foster parent. Into the souls of the adopted sons of God, however, sanctifying grace is infused, which gives them supernaturally a likeness to God. (Baltimore catechism)

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world" ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). If you, your child or grandchild is not baptised and you have interest in baptism, please speak to the priest.

#### 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:** Mary Mee, Carol Manton, Oliver O'Connor, 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, Mary Mee.

#### Please Pray for those whose death anniversaries occur this week:

**St Finbarr's:** John Phelan, Jane Daly, Connie Morrison, Maria Anna Curtis, Robert Anthony Mills, Roy McInerney.

**St Paul's:** Arthur Thomas Blackman, Frederick Hunt, John Downie, Russell Wills, Bob Tait, Susan Churcher, Ron Stone, Alfred Austin Willson, Myrtle Harcourt, Lenny Smith, Bridget Brown, Jane Moyes, Grace Price, Christine MacDougall, June Smither, Margaret Sansum, Elsie Shearn, Bob Broom, Michael Joseph Canning, Victoria Cox, Fr Thomas Connelly, Marie McGeeney, Ellen Gibbs.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S**

<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am 11am</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for Fr. Gabriel's Ministry</b>
	<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Those with Disabilities</b>
	<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for Jeanette Peters</b>
<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am 11am</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for People of the Parish</b>

**EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

	<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in the hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Peter Grilli RIP (Sheila) Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Fr. Gabriel's Ministry</b>
<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9am 11am 3pm 4pm</b>	<b>Mass for Fiona Heyes RIP (Sheila) Mass for G/E Fr. Leo (Mary) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm</b>
<b>SAINT AELRED OF Rievaulx</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Holy Souls</b>
<b>SAINT HILARY, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</b>	<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Prisoners and their Families</b>
	<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Carers of the Sick</b>
	<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Rosary Mass for Deceased Clergy of the Parish Bible Study in the Hall</b>
	<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Fr. Leo's New Ministry (Theresa)</b>
<b>SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT, MEMORIAL</b>	<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in the hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Vocations to the Priesthood in the UK Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for People of the Parish</b>
<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9am 11am 3pm 4pm</b>	<b>Mass for People of the Philippines affected by the recent landslide Mass for Hart and Cusack Families RIP (Mary-Ann) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm</b>

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL**

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's [ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Keith Wells for St Paul's [doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's [doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the Editor: [dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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

## 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### First Reading

### Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

***'Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.'***

Thus says the LORD:

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.

'I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 29(28):1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10. R11b

*The LORD will bless his people with peace.*

*Or: Alleluia*

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness.

*The LORD will bless his people with peace.*

*Or: Alleluia*

The voice of the LORD upon the waters,  
the LORD on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the LORD full of power;  
the voice of the LORD full of splendour.

*The LORD will bless his people with peace.*

*Or: Alleluia*

The God of glory thunders;  
in his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'  
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits as king for ever.

*The LORD will bless his people with peace.*

*Or: Alleluia*

### Second Reading

### Acts 10:34-38

***'God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.'***

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

### Acclamation before the Gospel

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:

'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.

**Alleluia.**

Cf. Mark 9:7

### Gospel

### Matthew 3:13-17

***'When Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming to rest on him.'***

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

### 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.**