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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>

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A **1st FEBRUARY 2026**

Missal P586 Order of the Mass P470

SECOND COLLECTION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

**WE WELCOME BACK FATHER LEO THIS WEEKEND
TO THANK HIM FOR HIS MINISTRY TO OUR PARISH**

PRIEST'S CORNER:

It is with heart full of joy that I join Father Jamie to invite everyone to his book launch which will take place in the hall after the 6.00 p.m Mass on Saturday 14th February and also on Sunday 15th February at St Finbarr's after 11am Mass. We have long waited for this book and thank God that it is out now. The book shares something of Father Jamie's spiritual journey making it a helpful resource for this coming Lent. In his kindness to the Parish of Good the Shepherd and special love for the youth, he has promised that all proceeds from the book will go towards supporting our young people to go to the World Youth Day in Seoul South Korea in 2027. I therefore encourage every family to support this noble project which is for the growth of faith in our parishes. Fr. Gabriel.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

In the gospel of today, Jesus gave us a rule of life that will give us both inner peace and assurance of eternal



life. The whole of the beatitude points us toward eternal happiness and fulfilment which can only be achieved in heaven where we shall see the beauty of God. In the teaching of the beatitude, Jesus draws us closer to God through our experiences and choices we make in our daily life encounters. In it we not only gain peace of heart that the world cannot give but also secure a place with God in heaven. All the principles of the beatitude evoke some actions which may not be so easy for the flesh but brings inner peace when we chose to follow them. Because it is not an easy way of life, Paul reminds us that when we were called that we may not be wise or powerful in the worldly standard of judgement but that he called what is weak, foolish and low, to show the wisdom of God to the world. Following Jesus means accepting and keeping his command which to the world may sound weak or foolish but to those who accept, it becomes a way that leads to life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Patricia Lyons from Tilmanstone who has passed away. Patricia's funeral will take place at St Finbarr's on Monday 9th February at 12 noon followed by Interment at Aylesham Cemetery. Also, please pray for Neil Stevens, son of Len & Bernadette, who passed away in China. A memorial service will be arranged for Neil at St Paul's; Also please remember in your prayers **Iris (Tilly) Ball** from St Paul's who died on 29th January; **Arthur James (Jim) Graves**, father of Bridget Graves from Aylesham and David Meadows, St Paul's gardener. Funeral details to follow. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY Today, Sunday, 1st February. There will be a second collection to promote racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales with an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. In an increasingly tense climate, it is imperative that we listen to, and learn from, the experiences, challenges and opportunities encountered in the mission of promoting racial justice in Catholic parishes today. Our parishes should be places where we can all truly grow in ever-deeper knowledge and love of each other, ourselves and God. Where racial justice is concerned, we must never tire of repeating what has been said before, though we always seek new ways to convey our message. **“Whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:21)**

MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST PAUL'S Mustard Seeds will meet again at **11am today, 1st February**. We will be celebrating St Brigid's day by getting crafty!

ST VALENTINE YOUTH MUSTARD SEEDS St Valentine Party at St Paul's Church Hall 7th February 1pm to 4pm. Children aged 9–15 are warmly welcome for Bible reading, games, and activities based on Christian values. Refreshments included. Bring your own Bible. Small donations are appreciated. Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AT 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. Perhaps some of the parish groups would be willing to help. If you would like to volunteer please speak to Fr. Gabriel.



THANK YOU: Paul would like to thank all those who helped him celebrate his 80th birthday last week and for the wonderful gifts he received.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026 - THANK YOU The week, with its theme 'One Body, One Spirit,' Ephesians 4:4, came to a successful close on Sunday 24th January with around 40 Christians attending the Ecumenical Worship Service held at St Paul's Church, Dover. A total of around 150 Christians, including Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics, Evangelicals and Methodists, attended the 5 week day morning prayer and reflection sessions. A huge thank you to all those parishioners from St Paul's who were involved with the preparation and successful delivery of the daily sessions and Sunday service. Deacon Barry.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2026 PROGRAMME Please note that the 2026 programme is now **closed** for new entrants at both St Paul's and St Finbarr's. The FHC Programme for 2027 commences in January 2027 with applications being accepted from November 2026.

ADULT YOUTH GROUP Familia UNA Faith and Life course, every **Sunday at 6pm** in the upper room of St Paul's hall. All young people aged 16 and over are welcome.

THE ADULT RCIA COURSE Every Monday at 7pm in the upper room of St Paul's Hall.

HOLY ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S every Thursday at 9.30am and the bible study immediately after the 10.00am Mass. The next session will be Thursday, 5th February. **OT Book of Exodus.**

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.

ST FINBARR'S CORNER:

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AT ST. FINBARR'S We are calling for donations for tea / coffee which is served regularly after Sunday and weekday Masses. Kindly consider leaving a small donation in the basket on the counter in the kitchen. This money helps to replenish our refreshments and also goes towards other running costs in our church. Thank you for your generosity.

FIDES PRAYER GROUP ST FINBARR'S - 'Fides' is the Latin word for faith. This group is an offshoot from an alpha course which was held in our church about three years ago. It was the brainchild of Fr Leo Illah and the aim was to create a forum for prayer, studying the scriptures and Catholic doctrine. Our meetings will be starting up again from **Thursday, 12th February 2026** and will be held on alternate Thursday evenings thereafter. We usually start off with some light refreshments at 6:40pm. The meeting is only an hour and a half long. We end promptly at 8:30pm. More details on the topics we will be discussing to follow shortly. Keep your eyes peeled! All are welcome.



HCPT HOSANNA HOUSE AND CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TRUST are committed in taking children and adults who are sick, have disabilities, and special needs to Lourdes every year at Easter and Summer. Our Easter group 87, based in Dover and our Summer group 587, based in Canterbury are your local HCPT groups.

Our Chaplain, nurse and volunteer helpers pay their own way, but we fundraise the cost for each beneficiary, child and adult which is £1400. **Please support our 'Ladies Pop-up Shop & Fashion Show'** 2pm Saturday 14th March St Thomas's Church 59 Burgate Canterbury CT1 2HJ. Tickets £5. See the posters in both churches for more information.

HCPT PILGRIMAGE GROUP 587 Book now to join your 'Holiday with Our lady' in Lourdes 22nd -29th August '26 staying at Hosanna House. £1400 includes flight, French airport transfer, full board accommodation with ensuite facilities, breathtaking views and tasty cuisine plus fully comprehensive insurance. To find out more contact: Roxy - 07852538576- roxyalbert6@gmail.com Annie- 07866515797- anniejudge@hotmail.com

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 February 1 st and 15 th	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm February 16 th	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Every Sunday 6pm	St. Paul's Upper 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 St Paul's	Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Finbarr's	Alternate Thursdays 6:40pm for 7pm Starts February 12 th	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Junior Youth Group	Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm St Valentine Party February 7 th	St Paul's Hall, Dover
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover

CATECHISM



What must we do to gain the happiness of heaven?
To gain the happiness of heaven we must know, love, and serve God in this world. Man must know, love, and serve God in a supernatural manner in order to gain the happiness of heaven. Man is raised to the supernatural order only by grace, a free gift of God. Man cannot be perfectly happy in this world, for nothing created can satisfy his desire for complete happiness. History and experience show that neither riches, nor honours, nor glory, nor reputation, nor power, nor pleasure, nor knowledge, nor any other worldly goods can fully satisfy man's longing for happiness. (Baltimore catechism)

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: David Underdown, Sr. Jennifer Sanders, 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, John & Joyce Nix, Bailey Turner, Peggy Merrell, Ryan Whittall, 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: June Bott, May Bishop, Ellen Donnachie, Tommy Yore, Barbara Berka, Joseph Harding, Joe Simcox, Endre Rockenbauer, Antoine Bartolo, Bertha Gregory, John Quinn.

St Paul's: Peter Brown, Betty Wiffen, Margaret Ann Williams, Ronald Tidmarsh, Francis 'Frenchie' Ball, Peter Evans, Danielle Sutton, Herbert Victor McCollm, Ian Ragsdale, Richard Percy Holland, Constance Ann White, Joan Grant, Elizabeth Walter, Eddie Clapson, Christopher Francis, Glenys Wilson, Madge Drew, Julie Knowling, Katherine Chapman.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 1 st February	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for Sick of the Parish
	Wednesday 4 th February	10am	Mass for the Terminally Ill
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 8 th February	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for People of the Parish
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
SAINT JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST	Saturday 31 st January	9.30am 10am 5PM	First Holy Communion Preparation in the hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Maria Divito (Angelina Silvano) Mass for Fr Leo 'Going Forth' Krystyna RIP (Renata and Boyden Family) Followed by a Celebration in St Mary's Hall, Cannon St.
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 1 st February	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for Noreen Moriarty RIP (Theresa and Clare) Mass for Patricio Luis Corrighia (Armando) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una Youth Group in the Upper Hall
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	Monday 2 nd February	10am 7pm	Mass for Peter Evans RIP (Pat) RCIA in the Upper Hall
SAINT LAURENCE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP	Tuesday 3 rd February	10am	Mass in honour of Jesus' Agonising Suffering (Tim)
SAINT HENRY MORSE, PRIEST AND MARTYR	Wednesday 4 th February	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Zlata Raczova, Koloman Racz & Adriana Balazova RIP (Lucia Raczova) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall
SAINT AGATHA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR	Thursday 5 th February	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Bridie Kearney RIP (Philomena) Bible Study in the Hall
SAINTS PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS	Friday 6 th February	10am	Mass for Malachy Crossen (Sharon Clark)
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 7 th February	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Neil Stevens RIP (Lizzie) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for David Meadows RIP (Tim)
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 8 th February	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for Deliverance from Addictions (Tim) Mass for G/E Barbara Rossi (Lizzie) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una 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.
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Readings for Sunday

1st February 2026

First Reading

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

'I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly.'

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

or: Alleluia.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

or: Alleluia.

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

or: Alleluia.

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

or: Alleluia.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

'God chose what is weak in the world.'

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia.

Cf. Matthew 5:12

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

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.