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 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/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD – 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026

*Missal P582 Order of the Mass P470*

*SECOND COLLECTION FOR MAINTENANCE OF ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL*

**PRIEST'S CORNER: GOING FORTH CELEBRATION FOR FR LEO** next Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> of January at St Paul's with a Holy Mass celebrated by him. **The Mass will start at 5pm** instead of 6pm. After the Mass all of us are invited to **St Mary's Parish Hall, Cannon Street, Dover CT16 1BY** (just across Pencester Park) 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 by Wednesday of this week. Put your name and the dish you are bringing on the list at the back of both churches. Please bring your dish to St Mary's Hall on Saturday any time between 3pm and 4.45pm or bring with you after the Mass.**

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, Fr Leo 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, you can still contribute to the special collection for him.** Put your donation in an envelope marked 'Fr Leo Special Collection' and either put in the collection this weekend, hand to one of the clergy or post through the presbytery letter box. Alternatively, you can donate through one of the CollecTin's in church or if you click on the link below you can donate through the parish Give a Little website. <https://givealittle.co/c/e8b66750-4ea0-478c-9ff7-53f823fdc306> Thank you. Fr. Gabriel.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** The responsorial psalm of today, "The Lord is my light, and my salvation" summarizes the mission of Jesus which he has left for us to continue. Prophet Isaiah was referring to Jesus'



mission when he said that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light of Jesus which started in a little town of Bethlehem with few people who joined him has transformed nations and the world at large. This mission is what Paul encourages us today to hold fast to as we live our lives in the community. We ought to live and work in the light of Jesus and not because of any human. We must not be divided but keep working for Jesus alone. If our focus is on Jesus, then quarrels among Christians will be very much minimized because we work in the light and love of Jesus. When we work and walk in the light of Christ, we get reconciled, our past forgiven and a new life begins. That was how Jesus invited Peter and the rest of the apostles, and their lives changed forever.

Jesus has invited and given us mandate to be the light of the world. Let us continue to follow the light of Christ wherever we find ourselves and we shall no longer be afraid of darkness.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026.** Come and celebrate the Week's final session, today 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 3pm - today's theme, 'Ecumenical Worship Service'. This session will be here at St. Paul's and will be led by the St. Paul's Clergy. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** Deacon Barry, WPCU 2026 Coordinator 07715 546938 [barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk)

**MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST PAUL'S** Mustard Seeds started last week at the 11am Mass. The children made lovely new prayers. We only had a few, but as we know, where 2 or 3 are gathered in



his name, Jesus is present. All children are welcome and can bring a sibling or parent if they are shy. We will meet again in 2 weeks' time on 1st February. We will be celebrating St Brigid's day by getting crafty!

**FATHER LEO'S CARD FROM THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH** Calling all children of the parish! We are asking all children at 9am & 11am Mass to complete a star for Father Leo's card. Maeve and Laura will be at the back of St Paul's at the end of Mass.

**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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR Patricia Lyons** from Tilmanstone who has passed away. Patricia's funeral will take place at **St Finbarr's on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon** followed by Interment at Aylesham Cemetery. Also, please pray for **Neil Stevens**, Len & Bernadette's son, who has died. Neil passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> January in China. May Patricia and Neil Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

### **ST FINBARR'S CORNER:**

**FR LEO'S SEND FORTH MASS AND RECEPTION** As announced last Sunday at Mass, transportation arrangements are being made by fellow parishioners to convey those who are unable to travel otherwise to St Paul's on Saturday, the 31st of January for Fr Leo's send forth Mass and reception. Forms are available at the back of the church for drivers and passengers to indicate their interest. This will enable us to pair people up accordingly.

**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 brain child 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL SECOND COLLECTION 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.** For over half a century, St George's Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George's has been a beacon of light. Today, St George's Cathedral continues to attract thousands of worshippers and visitors each year, as well as serving a lively local parish community which proudly reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of South London. The Cathedral frequently hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations and is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. Scan the QR Code using your phone camera to donate.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2026 GROUP** 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. Please note that the last weekend that children can start the 2026 programme at both churches is **SATURDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY**, St Paul's, and **SUNDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY**, St Finbarr's. **No new children will be admitted to the programme after these dates.**

**ADULT YOUTH GROUP** Familia UNA Faith and Life course will resume its weekly sessions **today, Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 6pm** in the upper room of St Paul's hall. All young people aged 16 and over are welcome.

**THE ADULT RCIA COURSE** has resumed and is held 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, 29<sup>th</sup> January. **OT Book of Exodus.**

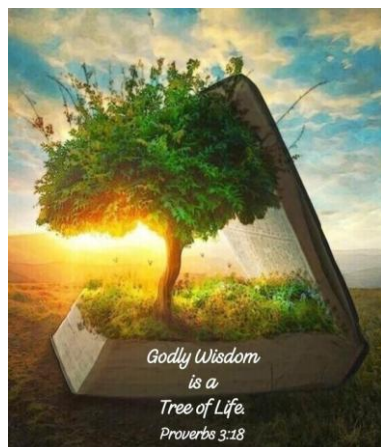
**WINTER SOUP KITCHEN (WSK) ST PAUL'S CHURCH HALL:** Every Sunday afternoon from **4pm - 6pm**. We provide a warm space for those who are homeless or lonely or just needing a place to chat on a Sunday.

**SECOND COLLETION RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** Next Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> 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)**

<b>Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham</b> <b>‘Called to Bear Fruit’: Parish Renewal, 2025</b>		
<b>Mustard Seed Children’s Liturgy</b>	<b>Every First and Third Sunday 11am</b>	<b>St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover</b>
<b>St Jude’s Prayer Group</b>	<b>Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>‘Familia Una’ Adult Youth Group</b>	<b>Every Sunday 6pm</b>	<b>St. Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover</b>
<b>First Holy Communion Preparation</b>	<b>Every Saturday 9.30am</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>First Holy Communion Preparation</b>	<b>Every Sunday 9.30am</b>	<b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>Winter Soup Kitchen</b>	<b>Every Sunday 4pm – 6pm</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>Fides Prayer Group St Paul’s</b>	<b>Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>Fides Prayer Group St Finbarr’s</b>	<b>Alternate Thursdays 6:40pm for 7pm</b> <b>Starts 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>Junior Youth Group</b>	<b>Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>RCIA Course</b>	<b>Every Monday 7pm</b>	<b>St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover</b>

## CATECHISM – THE DESIRE OF HAPPINESS



The Beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness. This desire is of divine origin: God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfil it: We all want to live happily. In the whole of human race there is no one who does not assent to this proposition, even before it is fully articulated. How is it, then, that I seek you, Lord? Since in seeking you, my God, I seek a happy life, let me seek you so that my soul may live, for my body draws life from my soul and my soul draws life from you. God alone satisfies. (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

### **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, 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:** James (Paddy) Cooney, Elizabeth Maud Gunson, Lawrence Sullivan, Ann McCallum, James McIntyre Snr, Ada Garrity, Christina Whitehouse, Robert Frederick Mills, Emily Pevy, Kathleen & Thomas Hobbin, Cyril Tyson,

**St Paul’s:** Dorothy Moore, Anna Louise Taylor, Natalie Kean, Madeleine Turnbull, Rosetta Stopher, Canon Charles Walker, Pdraig Gribbin, Marie Walsh, Gretta Stone, Joan Perry, Tom Williamson Ward, Kathleen Ellis, Mary Fisher, David Nuttall, Victoria Anna Maria Payton, Terence White, Edward Marchant.



EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for G/E Gabriela and James Hartley (Diana)
	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	Mass for Parish Priests (Tim)
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for Sick of the Parish
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for The Elderly and Infirm Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Maureen Houghton RIP (Colin)
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for People of the Parish Mass for G/E Paul 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (Carol and Family) Ecumenical Worship Service CTiD Winter Soup Kitchen in the Hall until 6pm Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una Youth Group in the Upper Hall
SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	10am 7pm	Mass for Sr. Mary Dympna UJ (Colin) RCIA in the Upper Hall
SAINT ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	Mass for G/E Paul 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (Mary)
SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Kenneth Atmore RIP (Carol and Paul) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall
	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Flora Marsella (Angelina Silvano) Bible Study in the Hall
	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert)
SAINT JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST	Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> February	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for Noreen Moriarty RIP (Theresa and Clare) Mass for Patricio Luis Corrigia (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

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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

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

### First Reading

Isaiah 9:1b-4

*In Galilee of the nations the people have seen a great light.*

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):1. 4. 13-14. R1a

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.  
Or: Alleluia*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.  
Or: Alleluia*

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,  
to enquire at his temple.

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.  
Or: Alleluia*

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong;

be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

*The LORD is my light and my salvation.  
Or: Alleluia*

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-13. 17

*'I appeal to you that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you.'*

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow

Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

### Acclamation before the Gospel

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction among the people.

**Alleluia.**

**Cf. Matthew 4:23**

### Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

*'Jesus went to Capernaum so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled'*

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

### 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.**