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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.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499streams>

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A 15th FEBRUARY 2026

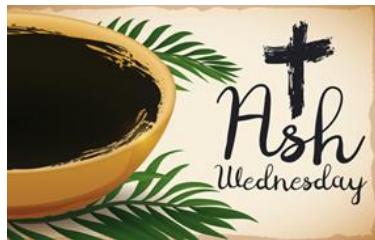
Missal P594 Order of the Mass P470

WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY

Second Collection for the Clergy Support

**Fr. Jamie's Book Launch Saturday after 6pm Mass St Paul's
Sunday after 11am Mass St Finbarr's**

PRIEST'S CORNER: Every year we begin the period of Lent with Ash Wednesday which calls to mind the importance of humility and reconciliation with God who loves us unconditionally. It is a time when we reflect



about our life, pray more, give more to the poor and practice fasting. Reflecting on our life helps us see where we are in our spiritual life. If we are making progress, then we keep trying and if we are not measuring up then we ask God to rekindle our efforts. The sacrament of reconciliation helps us in realigning our spiritual life. Prayer is the fuel that keeps our spiritual life moving. Jesus often finds time to pray and taught his apostles the importance of prayer. During Lent, adoration can be one of the ways we can reconnect with God by

spending time with the blessed Sacrament and private prayers. Whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me. These were the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40. This period gives us the opportunity to give to Jesus through the poor. In fasting we increase our spiritual strength. We can fast and abstain in so many ways. As we start the period of Lent on Ash Wednesday, let us keep in mind that it is a time we journey with Jesus on the way to Calvary for us to join in celebrating his resurrection. I invite you on this journey of Lent.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: A little girl had two apples and the mother asked for one. The little child had a taste from each of the apples and then gave the mother one of the two. The mother asked why she nibbled the two before giving her one and the child replied, I want to give you the sweetest one. In the same way we are always faced with options, from where we make choices which could be negative or positive. Inaction in the face of certain situations is also a form of choice. God has given us free will to make choices hence the book of Sirach reminds us that whatever choice we make has a consequence and that God never pushes us into any of the choices. Jesus goes further to emphasise the importance of being conscious and avoiding situations that may lead us into wrong choices. Actions such as forgiving others when they offend us or acknowledging when we offend and ask for forgiveness are all healthy choices that bring us closer to God. Conscious of good choices will lead us into maintaining honesty and integrity in face of all situations by saying yes when it is yes and no when it is no without fear as Jesus taught us.



INDUCTION OF FR. GABRIEL With joy we announce the date for the induction of Fr Gabriel as the parish priest of the Good Shepherd parish by Bishop Paul Hendricks. It will be on **Thursday 16th of April 2026 with a Mass at 6pm**. We invite all of you for this memorable celebration.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Carol Smye-Rumsby, Paul's wife and mother of Nicola, Sarah & Anthony who has passed away; For Neil Stevens, son of Len & Bernadette. A memorial service will take place at **St Paul's on Friday 6th March at 1pm**; For Arthur James (Jim) Graves, father of Bridget Graves from Ash. Arthur's funeral service will take place on **Monday 23rd February at 11am at St Finbarr's**, followed by interment at Aylesham Cemetery; For Iris (Tilly) Ball from St Paul's who died on 29th January; and David Meadows, St Paul's gardener. Funeral details to follow. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

THANK YOU. Len and Bernadette would like to thank all the Parish who have given us sympathy and support following the death of our son, Neil. Neil's Memorial Service will take place at St Paul's at 1.00pm on Friday 6th March and appreciate all who are able to attend.

MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST. PAUL'S will meet again this morning, **15th February at 11am Mass** in the Upper Hall. This week we are getting ready for Lent and thinking about how we can use the time to help others. We welcome all primary aged children, who are invited to join us.

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - FURTHER ACTION NEEDED! Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. *Please visit www.richttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST PAUL'S will commence on Friday 20th February, 6pm, and on successive Friday evenings until Friday 27th March.

FIDES PRAYER GROUP AT ST PAUL'S. No meeting this week as it's Ash Wednesday with Mass at 7pm.

LENT AT ST FINBARR'S 2026 - During this coming Lent Fides warmly invites you to join with us to watch four special Lenten videos by the acclaimed Bishop Robert Barron. Each week the video will be followed by a short discussion and a time of prayer. **Dates for your diaries:** 7.00 p.m. Thursday, 12th February **Three Questions to Ask Yourself During Lent;** 7.00 p.m. Thursday 26th February – **Entering the desert of Lent;** 7.00 p.m. Thursday, 12th March – **Loving an enemy;** 7.00 p.m. Thursday 26th March – **The thirsty soul.** Please note that our meeting starts 6:40pm with tea/coffee. We would love to share this Lenten opportunity with you.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL next Sunday, 22nd February.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2026 GROUP 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP 2026: ENROLMENT OF CANDIDATES Congratulations to all the children along with their parents, who were formally enrolled onto the FHC Preparation Programme last Sunday, 8th February. Signing the document meant that each family committed itself to do their best to ensure their child attends, along with themselves, all the Saturday and Sunday morning FHC preparation classes, actively engages in the learning opportunities provided and supports their prayer life at home.



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.

THE ST. JUDE'S PRAYER GROUP Meets every third Monday. The next meeting will be tomorrow, **Monday 16th February, 2pm – 3pm** in the 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, 19th February. OT Book of Peter 1 and 2.**

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.

OUR LADY OF DOVER LENT LUNCH to raise Funds for CAFOD, in the church hall at **Our Lady's Buckland** on **Saturday 21st February between 12noon and 1.30pm**. The lunch will consist of home-made soup and bread. If anyone would like to make soup to bring on the day or help with the event, please get in touch with Pauline Lloyd 07990 982552.

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT. At the back of the church you will find an A4 blue book with the title *Called to Bear Fruit*. It is a Diocesan report concerning a survey about parishes, to which our parish contributed. The Diocese wants us to take note of the report, and to examine it, so that we can think of the future in the light of the collected thoughts and ideas in the book.. Synodality appears to have come and gone without much of a murmur in St. Finbarr's. It might be beneficial if we could look to see what is relevant to our church in the report, and then discuss what the Diocese says we might do about it. *A St Finbarr's parishioner.*

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 February 15th	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm Next February 16th	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Every Sunday 6pm	St. Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Saturday 9.30am Restart February 28th	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Sunday 9.30am Restart March 1st	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 Next February 25th	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Finbarr's	Alternate Thursdays 6:40pm for 7pm Next February 26th	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Junior Youth Group	Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm Next March 7th	St Paul's Hall, Dover
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover

CATECHISM - The Formation of Conscience

Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. The education of conscience is indispensable for human beings who are subjected to negative influences and tempted by sin to prefer their own judgment and to reject authoritative teachings. The education of the conscience is a lifelong task. From the earliest years, it awakens the child to the knowledge and practice of the interior law recognized by conscience. Prudent education teaches virtue; it prevents or cures fear, selfishness and pride, resentment arising from guilt, and feelings of complacency, born of human weakness and faults. The education of the conscience guarantees freedom and engenders peace of heart. (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, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanim 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: Jim McIntyre, Sandra Tyson, Andre Camus, Cambell McIntyre, Bernardino Capriglione, Frank Lennon.

St Paul's: William Mechan, William Blanshard, Audrey Mahoney, Keith Munro, Gwen Hutchinson, Josee Carr, James Patrick Gillan, Oinne Burrows, Charles Jones, Paula Mary Greenwood, Francis Foy, May Kilkenny, Stephanie King, John Dominic Gillan, Susan Roy, James Lannigan, Valerie Russell, Rosa Corry, Marie Slater, Michael Sanderson, William James Becks.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 15th February	11am	NO First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for Sick of the Parish Followed by Fr Jamie's Book Launch
ASH WEDNESDAY	Wednesday 18th February	10am	Mass for Spread of the Gospel
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT	Sunday 22nd February	11am	NO First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for People of the Parish

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

SAINTS CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP, PATRONS OF EUROPE	Saturday 14th February	10am 5pm 6pm	NO First Holy Communion Preparation Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Viv and Paul (Sheila) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Healing of the Broken Hearted Fr Jamie Book Launch in hall after Mass
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 15th February	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for Neil Stevens RIP (Theresa) Mass for Kenneth Atmore RIP (Brian) Joseph Okoduwa birthday 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
	Monday 16th February	10am 2pm 7pm	Mass for G/E Paul Smye-Rumsby (Sheila) St Jude's Prayer Group in the hall RCIA in the Upper Hall
THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER	Tuesday 17th February	10am	Mass for Fr. Godwin & Comfort's Birthday (Mary) and Neil Stevens RIP (Kay)
ASH WEDNESDAY	Wednesday 18th February	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Flora Marsella RIP (Angelina) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Mass for Robert William Cronin RIP (Tim) NO Fides Prayer Group this week
	Thursday 19th February	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Jim Knott RIP (Tina Irving-James) Bible Study in the Hall
	Friday 20th February	10am 6pm	Mass for Nancy's 100th Birthday (Sheila) and The Joyce Family Stations of the Cross
ST PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH OR ST ROBERT SOUTHWELL, PRIEST AND MARTYR	Saturday 21st February	10am 5pm 6pm	NO First Holy Communion Preparation Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Neil Stevens RIP (Sheila) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Cathy Huntley)
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	Sunday 22nd February	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for G/E Marilyn and Billy (Sheila) Mass for Len, Bernie and Family (Sheila) 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.
A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

Readings for Sunday

15th February 2026

First Reading

Sirach 15:15-20

'He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly.'

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person's every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R1b

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!
or: Alleluia.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep his decrees! With all their hearts they seek him.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!
or: Alleluia.

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!
or: Alleluia.

Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. Open my eyes, that I may see the wonders of your law.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!
or: Alleluia.

LORD, teach me the way of your statutes, and I will keep them to the end. Grant me insight that I may keep your law, and observe it wholeheartedly.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!
or: Alleluia.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

'A wisdom God decreed before the ages for our glory.'

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him' —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.
Alleluia.

Cf. Matthew 11:25

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

'You are the light of the world.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

'You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.'

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.'

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'

'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn." But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

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.