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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>

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2026

*Missal P117 Order of the Mass P470*

*Second Collection for CAFOD Lent Fast Day*

**PRIEST'S CORNER:** Thank you to all those who wished me a happy birthday last week and sent cards, gifts and made cakes. I am very grateful. May God bless you All.

### **SPIRITANS ANNUAL RETREAT**

Fr Gabriel will be joining the rest of the Spiritans for their annual retreat at Leeds starting from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of March. Kindly keep all of them in your prayers.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our RCIA Candidates who attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral last Saturday with Fr Gabriel and their sponsors, and will be received into the Catholic Church this Easter.



**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** The story of Abraham's trust in God shows how faith in action which can turn into blessing. Abraham was told to leave the comfort of his family and friends to a place he did not know. There was assurance of protection and blessings for him. He moved on a journey to the unknown. In the gospel,



Peter James and John experienced what they could never explain fully, the glory of God. That again started with Jesus asking them to follow him. They were not sure of where they were going, not sure of safety, food and comforts of life but they had faith and trust in Jesus who invited them to follow him. Listening and responding to the invitation of Jesus during this period of Lent is also a call that requires our faith and trust. He invites us to follow him by leaving behind aspects of our life that are not in accordance with the way of life that Jesus sets for us. When we trust and follow Jesus, he opens for us the

glory of God, we gain protections and blessings to an extent that we cannot explain.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Carol Smye-Rumsby, who has passed away. Carol's Requiem Mass will take place at St Paul's on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12noon, followed by cremation at Barham at 2pm; For Rosemary Joan Sharpe whose funeral service will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm at St Finbarr's; For Neil Stevens, son of Len & Bernadette. A memorial service will take place at St Paul's this Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm. If you are attending, please wear smart casual, no black. Thank you; and For Iris (Tilly) Ball from St Paul's who died on 29th January, funeral details to be announced. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 with a Mass at 6pm.** We invite all of you for this memorable celebration.

**MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST. PAUL'S** will meet this Sunday **1<sup>st</sup> March, at 11am Mass** in the Upper Hall. We are celebrating St David's Day! We meet again in 2 weeks' time, where will be making Mother's Day gifts. We welcome all primary aged children, who are invited to join us.

**CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN DOVER (CTiD) AGM**, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, St Paul's Hall. Come and find out what CTiD has been doing in 2025. To receive the 2025 annual report please email [ctid.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ctid.secretary@gmail.com) All are welcome. Deacon Barry.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST PAUL'S** every Friday at 6pm, with the last one being on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. St Joseph's Men's Prayer group will lead the stations on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. All welcome.

**FIDES PRAYER GROUP AT ST PAUL'S** meeting this Wednesday 6.40pm for 7pm in the parish hall.

**LENTEN RETREAT Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 1pm–4.30pm, St John the Evangelist Mongeham, CT14 9LD.** Led by Rev. Dr. Barry Barton, Parish Deacon (Parish of the Good Shepherd, Dover and Aylesham).

**Theme:** Five key events in the life of Peter the Apostle and their meaning for our Lenten journey to Good Friday, Easter and beyond.

**Programme:** 1.00pm Lunch\*; 1.30pm **Session 1** – Peter's call to faith and denial of Jesus; Refreshments; **Session 2** – Peter's call to ministry, great escape and martyrdom in Rome; 4.30pm Close.

*\*Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a Catholic Bible or New Testament if possible.*

**LENT RETREAT DAY AT MINSTER ABBEY, 28<sup>th</sup> March.** The theme of the day is 'Lent- A Journey in Love' and it will be led by experienced retreat guide, Eddie Gilmore. Contact him at: [gileag@gmail.com](mailto:gileag@gmail.com) [www.eddiegilmore.org](http://www.eddiegilmore.org)

**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, 5<sup>th</sup> March. 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.

**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, 12<sup>th</sup> March – **Loving an enemy**; 7.00 p.m. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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. **STATION OF THE CROSS every Sunday at 10.15am**

**CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO RUN A REPOSITORY AT ST FINBARR'S.** We would like to revive our repository at St Finbarr's where prayer books, sacramentals and holy objects will be sold. If you are interested in helping with this, please speak to Fr Gabriel, Carina or Esiri.

**MASS BOOKINGS AT ST FINBARR'S** - Anne Rowe has kindly volunteered to coordinate Mass bookings at St Finbarr's. Should you like to book Mass for your intentions, please speak to her. We kindly request that Mass bookings are made at a minimum cost of £10. At St Paul's you may contact Theresa Gordon or Mary for Mass bookings.

**COLLECTIN MACHINE** - We encourage parishioners to use the CollecTin machine in the foyer for their weekly offertory, special collections or voluntary donations. It is very straightforward to use. Richard, John or Carina would be willing to guide anyone who needs some assistance at St Finbarr's or ask Mary or Paul at St Paul's.

**ST FINBARR'S** Are there any African, Indian, Asian, European or Eastern European creative writers among you (any age over 7 years)? We are looking for poems and 'short stories' (half an A4 page). We will gladly accept items originally written in a language other than English, but they must be accompanied by an English translation. Please do not be shy; help will be available. Your poems may be introduced into our anthologies for publication. We also hope to receive more Irish and English poems! We look forward to receiving your submissions. Please email your work as a WORD attachment to [notwithstandingscripts@btinternet.com](mailto:notwithstandingscripts@btinternet.com) Thank you.

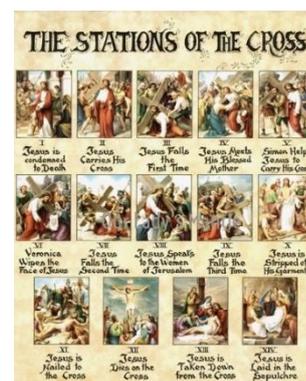
**THANK YOU** Grateful thanks to everyone who helped with the Lent lunch at Our Lady of Dover parish on Saturday 21st February, by bringing delicious soup and other food and by helping with the preparations and washing up. We raised a total of £ 180.50 for CAFOD, so many thanks to everyone who came along and made a donation.

**THE NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH** will take place every day from 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March at St Joseph's church in Maidenhead. Every year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses are at 10am every day and 11am on Sunday and can be viewed via the Mill Hill website [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena) You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or request a Novena prayer book (£1 to cover the cost) by writing to the Novena Director, 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com)

<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>Next March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover</b>
<b>St Jude's Prayer Group</b>	<b>Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm</b> <b>Next March 16<sup>th</sup></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>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>Next March 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Finbarr's, Aylesham</b>
<b>Junior Youth Group</b>	<b>Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm</b> <b>March 7<sup>th</sup></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>
<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>Every Friday 6pm</b>	<b>St Paul's, Dover</b>
<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>Every Sunday 10.15am</b>	<b>St Finbarr's, Aylesham</b>

### **CATECHISM - WHAT WERE THE CHIEF SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST?**

The chief sufferings of Christ were His bitter agony of soul, His bloody sweat, His cruel scourging, and His crowning with thorns, His crucifixion, and His death on the cross. The Stations of the Cross and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary call to mind the chief sufferings of Christ. Christ suffered and died in His human nature; in His divine nature He could neither suffer nor die. All of His sufferings, even the least, were of infinite value because His human and divine natures were united in the divine Person of the Son of God. (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, 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:** Edward David Vance, Mary Agnes Proctor, Roger Turnbull, Zillah Quinn, Winifred Wilson, Margaret Carton, Frederick James Tanner, Marie Clementine Dodds

**St Paul's:** Ian Barber, Sr. Grace Mullan UJ, Maureen Sandell, Sr. Clarissa DC, Mary Curtin, Kate Storey, Fr. Michael O'Hagan, Brigid Spinks, Terry Clapson, Reginald Farmer, Roger Andrew Weatherstone, James O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Hyndman, Kenneth Clark, John O'Connor, Kathleen Ann Carmel Morris, Alan Medhurst, Noel lee Vasquez, Siobhan Sinclair-McClire, 193 lives lost on Herald of Free Enterprise, Archbishop Peter Smith, Virginia Marchant, George Reid, Mary Sherwood, Jane Vallee Moonsamy.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>9.30am 10.15am 11am</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Anne and Jeremy)</b>
	<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Seminarians Worldwide</b>
	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>1pm</b>	<b>Funeral Service for Rosemary Joan Sharpe</b>
<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.30am 10.15am 11am</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for The Elderly and Infirm</b>
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
	<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Mary) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Jesus Youth Silver Jubilee Celebrations ( Sujan and Thushara)</b>
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm</b>	<b>Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Theresa) Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (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</b>
	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>10am 7pm</b>	<b>Mass for Paul Smye-Rumsby &amp; Family (Andrea) RCIA in the Upper Hall</b>
	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Jesus Youth London Region 25 years of Blessings (Sujan and Thushara)</b>
	<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>10am 5.30pm 7pm</b>	<b>Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Tim) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall</b>
	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Rosary Ordinariate Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP Bible Study in the Hall</b>
	<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>10am 1pm 6pm</b>	<b>Mass for Children who left our marriage through Miscarriage (Sujan and Thushara) Memorial Service for Neil Stevens Stations of the Cross led by St Joseph Men's Prayer Group</b>
	<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Deceased Family &amp; Friends of Theresa Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Mike Nelson RIP (Tim)</b>
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm</b>	<b>Mass for Keith and Theresa Wedding Anniversary Mass for Carol RIP and Paul &amp; Family (Ronnie) 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</b>

**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](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.  
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# Readings for Sunday

## 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1: 8b-10

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

### The call of Abram, the father of the People of God.

In those days: The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

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Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R5b

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

The word of the LORD is upright,  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The LORD loves justice and right,  
and his merciful love fills the earth.

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their soul from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

Our soul is waiting for the LORD.  
He is our help and our shield.  
May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

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God calls and enlightens us.

Beloved: We share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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Acclamation before the Gospel

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Matthew 17:5

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Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

'His face shone like the sun.'

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and have no fear.' And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.'

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.