



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
Asst: Fr Jamie Houghton 07955 242324 jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Barry Barton: 07715 546938 barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Secretary: 07936 573155 dover@rcaos.org.uk
St Finbarr's: aylesham@rcaos.org.uk
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/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsaye7499/streams>

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT– YEAR A 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

Missal P112 Order of the Mass P470

Next Friday is CAFOD Family Fast Day

Second Collection Today for the SPUC White Flower Appeal

PRIEST'S CORNER: Father Jamie would like to thank everyone who came to support him at to the book launches at Paul's and St. Finbarr's. For me, it was just amazing and a reminder of how God works in our lives. All the proceeds from my little book will go to towards supporting our young people to go to the World Youth Day in 2027. If you missed out on the book launch, copies of my book will be available after the different Masses.



GOSPEL REFLECTION: The period of Lent is very important in the life



of every Christian hence the invitation to spiritual renewal through prayer. Jesus spent time in prayer and fasting and was tempted in different ways but refused to yield to sin. He had the freedom to respond either by embracing the promptings of the temptations or outrightly rejecting them. Those temptations were so convincing based on what Jesus needed at the time of the temptation, but he chose the part of rejection. The book of Genesis presents a story of a man and a woman who were faced with temptation. They had the freedom to choose between yielding to the temptation or rejecting it. Their choice led

them into sin with grievous consequence. They lost their happiness and peace. In the same way, we are often faced with temptations which necessitate choices. Temptation is not a sin until we make a wrong choice by yielding and executing it. All of us have made different wrong choices but all hope is not lost as the period of Lent brings us to closer to God. He is merciful and kind hence we ask, "Have mercy on us, O Lord for we have sinned." May we have the courage to come back to God as he is ever ready to receive us back.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2026 – The Society of the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) are holding its annual appeal this weekend. SPUC exists to transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes unthinkable. The Society is actively leading the fight in courts, classrooms and culture to achieve this mission. Through efforts we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. This year's appeal postcards (at the back of church) allow supporters to join the fightback campaign against the current threats in Parliament to expand abortion and allow assisted suicide. Your support means everything to us. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC at this critical time for our country.

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.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.*

CONGRATULATIONS to Fr. Gabriel who celebrates his birthday on Wednesday, and to Deacon Barry who celebrates his deaconate ordination anniversary on Monday. May God continue to bless them both in their ministries to our parish.

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, who has passed away. Carol's Requiem Mass will take place at **St Paul's on Friday 20th March at 12noon**, followed by cremation at Barham at 2pm; For **Neil Stevens**, son of Len & Bernadette. A memorial service will take place at **St Paul's on Friday 6th March at 1pm**; 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.

MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST. PAUL'S will meet again next Sunday **1st March, at 11am Mass** in the Upper Hall. We welcome all primary aged children, who are invited to join us.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST PAUL'S every Friday evening at 6pm with the last one being on Friday 27th March. All welcome.

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

LENTEN RETREAT Saturday 21st 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 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 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.

STATION OF THE CROSS every Sunday at 10.15am

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CAFOD LENT FAST DAY next **Sunday, 1st March.**

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.

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, 26th 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.



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

THE 2026 SYCAMORE GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT) The SycamOre Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) for married and engaged couples is an ONLINE course (8.30pm – 9.30pm), which has been developed in collaboration with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team, the Agency for Evangelisation and Sycamore, a programme about the Catholic faith by Fr Stephen Wang. Growing in Faith Together consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for: married couples to enrich their friendship and love and engaged couples who want to continue exploring their faith together. **The 2026 Sycamore Growing in Faith together (GIFT) dates are: March 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st. Contact Carole on: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk**

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 March 1st	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude’s Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm Next March 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 28th February	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Sunday 9.30am Restart 1st March	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 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
Stations of the Cross St Paul’s	Every Friday 7pm	St Paul’s, Dover
Stations of the Cross St Finbarr’s	Every Sunday 10.15am	St Finbarr’s, Aylesham

CATECHISM – WHAT THREE THINGS ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE A SIN MORTAL?



To make a sin mortal these three things are necessary: first, the thought, desire, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong; second, the sinner must be mindful of the serious wrong; third, the sinner must fully consent to it. Things seriously evil are known to be such from Sacred Scripture, Tradition, the teachings of the Church, or from the nature of the acts themselves. The sinner is mindful of the serious wrong if at the time he commits the sin or places a cause from which he foresees the sin will follow, he either is clearly aware or at least thinks that the action is grievously sinful. A sinner fully consents to the wrong when he freely chooses to do evil, although he is entirely free not to do it. A person who deliberately consents to do something grievously sinful is guilty of mortal sin although he never actually does it, because his will has chosen evil in preference to good. When a sinner, mindful of evil, consents to it he is said to commit a formal sin. (Baltimore Catechism #3)

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: Christopher Lonie, Robert Irving, Francesco Cordani, Mavis Ann Bremner, Jane McCallum, Frederick Doncaster, Marlene Marguerita Watson, Denise Margaret Morris, Mary Maureen O’Reilly, Rosannah Kelly, Anna Watson, Derek John Cousens.

St Paul’s: Jim Healy, John Medhurst, Catherine (Kitty) Kiely, Aniela Lukaszczyk, John Reidy, Angela Moyes, John Daniel Deegan, Vincent McGurk, James McNena, Tony McMullan, Margaret Donaldson, Roger Hurst, Pamela Josephine Manning, Richard Murphy, Johnny Vercammen, Helen Curling, John Enrico Celso Franci, Sr. Monica Doyle DC, Guerino Macari, Janet Hodgson, May Moran, Kevin Anthony Fox, John Coen, Angela Tivnan, Mary Bridget Willis, Albert John Townhill, Alfred Frank White.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT	Sunday 22 nd February	10.15am 11am	NO First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for People of the Parish
SAINT POLYCARP. BISHOP AND MARTYR	Monday 23 rd February	11am	Funeral Mass of Arthur James (Jim) Graves
SAINT ETHELBERT, KING	Wednesday 25 th February	10am	Mass for G/E Fr. Gabriel Birthday
	Thursday 26 th February	7pm	Fides Prayer Group
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	Sunday 1 st March	9.30am 10.15am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Anne and Jeremy)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
ST PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH OR ST ROBERT SOUTHWELL, PRIEST AND MARTYR	Saturday 21 st 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 22 nd 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
SAINT POLYCARP. BISHOP AND MARTYR	Monday 23 rd February	10am 7pm	Mass for Bernie's and Len's Birthday (Sheila) Ordination Anniversaries for Fr. Andrew and Deacon Barry RCIA in the Upper Hall
	Tuesday 24 th February	10am	Mass for Mary Francis RIP (Sheila) and John Hare RIP (Kay)
SAINT ETHELBERT, KING	Wednesday 25 th February	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Neil Stevens RIP (Anne and Peter) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall
	Thursday 26 th February	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Angelo Rocca RIP (Tim) Bible Study in the Hall
CAFOD FAST DAY	Friday 27 th February	10am 6pm	Mass for Richard John Willson and Emily Clare Willson 'F' Stations of the Cross
	Saturday 28 th February	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	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)
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	Sunday 1 st March	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Keith Wells for St Paul's doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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

22nd February 2026

First Reading

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The creation and sin of our first parents.

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. R cf. 3a

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

or: Alleluia.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

or: Alleluia

My transgressions, truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

or: Alleluia

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

or: Alleluia

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. *Have mercy on us,
O Lord, for we have sinned.*

or: Alleluia

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

‘Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.’

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Matthew 4:4b

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”’ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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.