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Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499streams>

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A **8th FEBRUARY 2026**

Missal P590 Order of the Mass P470

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.

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Jesus in using the salt and light to describe his followers gave an indication that they will have many good attributes of life that will differentiate them in the world. Salt possesses different qualities which go beyond making food tasty as it can be used for preservation and can be used for healing wounds. Light obviously dispels darkness. How do we give nice taste to the world and dispel darkness? Isaiah has known the answer before Jesus challenged his followers to be the salt and light of the world. He explains that by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, consoling those in pains and being kind to others that we give nice taste to the world.

 We can preserve the quality of life of others by being kind and making sure that we help the next generation to continue being kind to others. We can heal the wounds of the world by being the listening empathetic ear, being the voice that speaks against injustice in the society and the voice that brings hope to those that are discouraged. By standing for truth we shine brightly in the world. What is the yardstick we can use to measure if we are the salt and the light of the world? We are the salt and the light of the world when those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, in search of truth and justice think of us, come to us and receive help as much as we can give. Their world becomes tasty and darkness turns into light.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Carol Smye-Rumsby, Paul's wife and mother of Nicola, Sarah & Anthony who passed away suddenly on Thursday; For Neil Stevens, son of Len & Bernadette, who passed away in China. A memorial service will be arranged for Neil at St Paul's; For Arthur James (Jim) Graves, father of Bridget Graves from Aylesham. Arthur's funeral service will take place on **Monday 23rd February at 11am** 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 FOR THE LOVE AND SUPPORT AT MY SEND-FORTH.

Dear Beloved Parishioners and Friends in Dover and Aylesham,

I write with a heart full of gratitude to say thank you for the truly massive outpouring of love shown to me during my send-forth event last week. Your presence, prayers, kind words, generous gifts, and thoughtful organizations made the occasion deeply moving and unforgettable. I felt genuinely carried by the love of the community, and I am profoundly grateful to God for blessing me with such a warm, faith-filled parish.

Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes, those who planned, cooked, sang, prayed, and those who simply came to share the moment. Each gesture, big or small, spoke volumes. You reminded me once again that our Church is not just a place, but a family. I think of the many children (and their parents) who prepared so hard in Dover and Aylesham to dance and sing for the occasion; St. Richard's school, St. Josephs and St. Edmund's; I am grateful. To Fr. Gabriel, Fr. Jamie, Deacon Barry and Mary, I have no words. Thank you. I see you all and Jesus sees you.

As I move on to the next chapter of my journey in Manchester, I carry Dover in my heart. I am an apostle of Dover and I will continue to spread the love wherever I go. Be assured of my continued prayers for you all, and I ask that you keep me in yours as well. May the Lord bless you abundantly. With deep gratitude and affection, Fr. Leo Illah, CSSp.

View photos on our website here <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/parish/>



SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CLERGY SUPPORT There will be a second collection **next Sunday, 15th February** for the Clergy Support Fund which enables the Archdiocese of Southwark to care for clergy in their retirement, old age, and at their time of ill health, after their lifetime of service and devotion to Christ, his Church and his people. Donations ensure a dignified retirement for all of our priests.

COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY: Cash & CollecTin £3089.53; Bankers Orders £3552.00; Second Collections: Crib Offering £75.44; St George's Cathedral £165.16. Thank you for your generosity.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP 2026: ENROLMENT OF CANDIDATES Congratulations to the children who will, today, along with their parent, be formally enrolled into the FHC Programme. Signing the document means that each family commits to do their best to ensure their child attends, along with themselves, all the Saturday morning FHC preparation classes, actively engages in the learning and supports their prayer life at home.

ST VALENTINE YOUTH MUSTARD SEEDS St Valentine Party at St Paul's Church Hall this Saturday, 14th 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!

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 Rober 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.

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 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, 12th 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.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK, 7-14 FEBRUARY -THE JOY OF LOVE: ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE on the **Feast of St Joseph, 19 March 2026**, will be the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* – “On Love in the Family.” To prepare for this anniversary, we invite you from the beginning of **National Marriage Week, 7th -14th February until 19th March 2026**, to reflect on the central role that marriage and family life play in our Church and in wider society.

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 1st and 15th	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude’s Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm 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	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 12th	St Finbarr’s, Aylesham
Junior Youth Group	Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm St Valentine Party February 14th	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover

CATECHISM – HUMAN VIRTUES (1)



Four virtues play a pivotal role and accordingly are called "cardinal"; all the others are grouped around them. They are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. "If anyone loves righteousness, [Wisdom's] labours are virtues; for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice, and courage." These virtues are praised under other names in many passages of Scripture. Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; "the prudent man looks where he is going. Keep sane and sober for your prayers. Prudence is "right reason in action," writes St. Thomas Aquinas, following Aristotle. It is not to be confused with timidity or fear, nor with duplicity or dissimulation. It is called auriga virtutum (the charioteer of the virtues); it guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure. It is prudence that immediately guides the judgment of conscience. The prudent man determines and directs his conduct in accordance with this judgment. With the help of this virtue, we apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid. (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, 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: Catherine Turnbull, Desmond Thomas Martin, John Russell Bramwell, Margaret Quinn.

St Paul’s: Margaret Hilda Blanchard, Ruth Smith, William Naylor, Raymond Dorian Williams KHS, Audrey Mahoney, Margarita Pott, Frances McNena, Margaret Rose Upton, Helen Clancy, Peter Pia, Richard Laffey, Dominic Gillespie, Sr. Kathleen Cruise DC, Charles Jones, Ronnie Wills, Dino Borrello, Jeremy Sykes, Anthony Grilli, Elsa Mabel Gill, Mary Ada Coles, Mary Tanner, William Martin.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 8th February	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for People of the Parish
	Monday 9th February	12 noon	Funeral Service of Patricia Lyons
	Wednesday 11th February	10am	Mass for Children in Care
	Thursday 12th February	6.40pm for 7pm	Fides Prayer Group
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 15th February	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for Sick of the Parish

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 7th 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 8th February	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for Deliverance from Addictions Mass for G/E Barbara Rossi (Lizzie) Restituta & Crave (Bong) 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 9th February	10am 7pm	Mass for Healing of Memories RCIA in the Upper Hall
SAINT SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN	Tuesday 10th February	10am	Mass for Paul SR Birthday (Keith and Theresa)
OUR LADY OF LOURDES. WORLD DAY FOR THE SICK	Wednesday 11th February	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for G/E Len and Bernie (Andrea) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall
	Thursday 12th February	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Neil Stevens RIP (Tim) Bible Study in the Hall
	Friday 13th February	10am	Mass for G/E Chris and Nick Conrath (Tim)
SAINTS CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP, PATRONS OF EUROPE	Saturday 14th February	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the hall 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 Heart
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) 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

8th February 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 58:6-10

'Your light shall break forth like the dawn..'

'Your light shall break forth like the dawn.'

Thus says the Lord:

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

If you take away the yoke from your midst,

the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

if you pour yourself out for the hungry

and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

then shall your light rise in the darkness

and your gloom be as the noonday.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

'I proclaimed to you the mystery of Christ crucified.'

I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia.

Cf. John 8:12

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

'You are the light of the world.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 112(111):4-5. 6-7. 8a, 9. R4a

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

or: Alleluia.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright;

he is generous, merciful, and righteous.

It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

or: Alleluia.

He will never be moved;
for ever shall the upright be remembered.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart, he trusts in the LORD.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

or: Alleluia.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear.
Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.

His might shall be exalted in glory.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

or: Alleluia.
