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Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsaye7499/streams>



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A
LAETARE SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2026
Happy Mothering Sunday to All Our Mothers
Missal P127 Order of the Mass P470

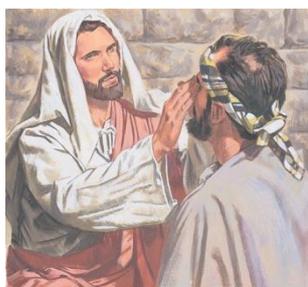


PRIEST CORNER: Today we celebrate our mothers. Many artists, musicians and peoples of all walks of life have done a lot to praise mothers for their great contribution in our lives. Permit me then to use the ideas of a Nigerian musician, Nico Mbarga in his music “**SWEET MOTHER**” to praise our mothers today.

- Sweet mother I will never forget you for this suffer you suffered for me,
- When I am crying, my mother will carry me, she will say my child stop crying,
- When I am hungry, my mother will give me food,
- When I cannot eat my mother will not eat,
- When I want to sleep, my mother will lie me on the bed and cover me with clothes,
- When I am sick, my mother will cry that instead of me to die let her die. She will cry for God to help me,

Mothers, how can we continue to pay you back for all you have been doing for us, all we can say is **THANK YOU** for all you have been doing and continue to do for us. May God continue to support you in times of joy and pain. (Exodus 20: 12)

GOSPEL REFLECTION:



The fourth Sunday of Lent is popularly called Laetare; meaning rejoice. The church invites us to rejoice because we have followed Jesus in the journey of Lent and are now very close to the day of Resurrection. The first reading makes us understand how important spiritual sight is. The family of Jesse did not realize that David was destined to be king of Israel until Samuel who has the spiritual eyes opened theirs for all to see. Likewise in the gospel, the blind man could not see the goodness of God around him until when he encountered Jesus. Jesus opened his eyes to the surprise of neighbours. In both experiences, physical and spiritual eyes were shown to be very important in our life. Our spiritual blindness can manifest in the way we respond to injustice, the hungry, the abused or even the use of general goods. We may have our physical sight but may be blind spiritually hence we need Jesus to open our eyes as he did to the blind so that we will begin to see and act out the goodness of God in the world. It is with our spiritual eyes that we will joyfully see the risen Jesus on the Resurrection Day.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL as the area in front of St Paul's church is barriered off, with the main entrance closed for the completion of the new layby. Parishioners will be required to use the side access to gain entry to the church. The works are planned to be finished this week. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. Cathy Huntley who passed away on Thursday, mother of Clare and Joe and sister-in-law to Mary our parish secretary. Cathy was a lifelong parishioner of St Paul's. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Funeral arrangements to follow; **Mary Lynda Ashton**, whose Funeral Service will be at **Barham Crematorium on Tuesday, 17th March at 2pm**; **Carol Smye-Rumsby**, whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St Paul's on Friday 20th March at 12noon**, followed by cremation at Barham at 2pm; **Iris (Tilly) Ball** whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St Paul's on Wednesday 25th March at 11.30am**, followed by burial at St James Cemetery; May They All Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

INDUCTION OF FR. GABRIEL as the parish priest of the Good Shepherd parish by Bishop Paul Hendrick will be on **Thursday 16th April with Mass at 6pm**. We invite all of you for this memorable celebration. The Reception afterwards will take place at **St Richard's Catholic Primary School, Castle Avenue, Dover**. Because there will be limited capacity, and for Health & Safety reasons, we have to restrict the number of people who can attend the Reception. Therefore, if you wish to come to the Reception after the Mass you will need to apply for a free ticket. These can be obtained through the following website. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reception-for-fr-gabriel-onoyima-cssp-tickets-1984365643056?aff=oddtcreator>. If you do not have access to the internet please give your name to Mary if you would like to attend. Tel 07936 573155. **The Induction Mass is open to All**. It is just the Reception afterwards that will be free ticketed. We will be arranging transport for those who wish to attend the Reception and are unable to walk up the hill to the School. Please contact Mary if you require transport.

NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2026/27. Please pick up from the back of church.

CONFIRMATION GOING FORTH MASS AT ST. PAUL'S will be next **Sunday 22nd March at the 11am Mass** when those Confirmed last October will receive their certificates.

MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST. PAUL'S will meet this Sunday, **15th March, at 11am Mass** in the Upper Hall. We will be making Mother's Day gifts. All primary aged school children are invited to join us.

MUSTARD SEEDS LENT CHARITY ST. PAUL'S. This Lent, the Mustard Seeds will be collecting donations for Baby Basics, Dover branch. Baby Basics provides support to new families who need a helping hand. Most needed items are: Scratch mitts, nappy cream, nappy sacks, changing mats, Moses basket blankets (boy), comforters/teedies- nothing with hard eyes. If you are able to donate, there are boxes at the back of the church. The children are collecting up until Easter Sunday. Thank you for supporting the children in their almsgiving this Lent.

EASTER EGG DONATIONS ST. PAUL'S. We will be giving eggs out to the children of the Parish on Easter Sunday. If there are any parishioners who are able to donate small eggs- creme egg size or similar, it would be much appreciated. There will be a donation box at the back of the hall until Maundy Thursday. Many thanks, Laura.

LENT AT ST. FINBARR'S 2026 - Fides warmly invites you to join with us to watch the 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 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 AT ST. FINBARR'S every Sunday at 10.15am

ST FINBARR'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be the **1st Sunday of the month only**, until we recruit some more volunteers.

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.

ST FINBARR'S: As we journey through Lent and embrace prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, let us show charity in action by supporting families and young people who are struggling. Please donate non-perishable food and essentials in the collection box at the back of St Finbarr's church until 29th March. All items and funds will go to support ****Bechange**** and their work in our local community. **Suggested items:** • Sugar • UHT milk • Coffee • Flour (plain & self-raising) • Long life juice or squash • Sweet biscuits & crackers • Crisps • Tinned meat • Salt, pepper & vinegar • Washing up liquid & other cleaning items • Spreads (peanut butter, jam, marmite) • Tomato & brown sauce • Mayonnaise & gravy Thank you for your generous support.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION There will be the Sacrament of Reconciliation at **St Paul's on 24th March** and at **St Finbarr's on 31st March**. **Both start by 7pm**. Fr Matthew Madewa has been invited to hear confessions.

IS THERE AN ACCOUNTANT OR SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ACCOUNTS IN THE PARISH? Would you be willing to join the Parish Finance Committee? If so, please speak with Fr Gabriel.

COLLECTIN MACHINE - We encourage parishioners to use the CollecTin machines in both churches 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.

COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: Cash & CollecTin £3107.46; Bankers Orders £3286.00; Second Collections: Clergy Support £348.20; Racial Justice £195.21; SPUC £272.20 Thank you for your generosity.

LENTEN RETREAT Saturday 28th 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.*

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS. Please book Mass Requests at least 2 weeks in advance. The diary gets very full therefore the earlier you book the better. At St Paul's please give you request to Theresa Gordon or Mary. At St Finbarr's please see Anne Rowe. Or give to one of the clergy. Envelopes are available at the back of church. Requested donation is £10.

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal, 2026		
Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy	First and Third Sunday 11am 15th March	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Finbarr's Children's Liturgy	First Sunday of the Month 11am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
St Jude's Prayer Group	Third Monday 2pm – 3pm 16th March	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Sunday 6pm NO MEETING 15th March	St. Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Saturday 9.30am	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Sunday 9.30am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Winter Soup Kitchen	Sunday 4pm – 6pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Paul's	Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Finbarr's	Alternate Thursdays 6:40pm for 7pm 26th March	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Junior Youth Group	Saturday 14th March 1pm – 4pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Stations of the Cross	Friday 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
Stations of the Cross	Sunday 10.15am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Sacrament of Reconciliation	24th March - 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Sacrament of Reconciliation	31st March - 7pm	St Finbarr's, Aylesham

CATECHISM - THE SACRAMENTS OF HEALING



Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, man receives the new life of Christ. Now we carry this life "in earthen vessels," and it remains "hidden with Christ in God." We are still in our "earthly tent," subject to suffering, illness, and death. This new life as a child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin. The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to bodily health, has willed that his Church continue, in the

power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation, even among her own members. This is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: the sacrament of Penance and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. (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: Keely Cookson, 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, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.

Please Pray for those whose death anniversaries occur this week:

St Finbarr's: Sarah Docherty, Zona Patricia Coleman, Gerard Christopher Whelan, Margaret Theresa 'Peggy' Donnachie, Frank Peter Golden, Julia Kelly, Rosanna Hancock.

St Paul's: Christine Blackman, Frederick Hill, Edgar Ralph Ryan, Felix Mascarenhas, Jackie Bowles, Catherine Marples, Annie Collins, Irene Lohan, Hilda Smith, Daisy Lewis, Douglas Bertelsen, Muriel Campbell, Hanna Balogova, Fr. Frank Parkinson, Agnes Carr, Edward Brown Brodie, Edith Jane MacKenzie, Ignace De Jaeger, Edward (Ted) Arman, Alice Archer, George Redman.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT	Sunday 15th March	9.30am 10.15am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for Peace in the Middle East
	Wednesday 18th February	10am	Mass for Peace in Nigeria
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT	Sunday 22nd March	9.30am 10.15am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for Dick & Lena Gammie RIP 'F'
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
	Saturday 14th March	9.30am 10am 1pm 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Anne-Marie Holiday RIP, Ernest Michael Huntley RIP & Cathy Huntley RIP (Mary) Junior Youth Group in the Hall Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for G/E Fr. Leszek Klos (Tim)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Sunday 15th March	9am 11am 3pm 4pm	Mass for Peter Grilli RIP (Theresa & Family) And G/E Theresa Wells (Simon) Mass for Jesus Youth London Region 25 years of Blessings 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 NO SESSION THIS WEEK
	Monday 16th March	10am 2pm	Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Tim) St Jude's Prayer Group
SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP, PATRON OF IRELAND, FEAST	Tuesday 17th March	10am	Mass for Children who left our marriage by miscarriage (Sujan & Thushara)
COLLECT OF SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.	Wednesday 18th March	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Ernest Csik (Gizela) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall
SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH	Thursday 19th March	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Neil Stevens RIP & Len & Bernadette (Pat) Bible Study in the Hall
	Friday 20th March	10am 12 noon 6pm	Mass for People of Lebanon Requiem Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby Stations of the Cross
	Saturday 21st March	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Pat) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for G/E John Duddington (Tim)
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	Sunday 22nd March	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for Peter Grilli RIP (Bong & Merlyn) Mass for Jane Francis RIP 1st Anniversary (Colin) and 'Confirmation Candidates Going Forth' 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 avleshams2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Keith Wells for St Paul's doverse1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's doverse2@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

15th March 2026

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1b. 6-7. 10-13a

'David is anointed king of Israel.'

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R. 1

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or: Alleluia.

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or: Alleluia.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of
death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.
The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or: Alleluia.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or: Alleluia.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or: Alleluia.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

'Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Acclamation before the Gospel

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

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

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Cf. John 8:12

Gospel

John 9:1-41

'He went and washed and received his sight.'

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put

mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?’ And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, ‘Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ And they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?’ And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, ‘Are we also blind?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, “We see”, your guilt remains.’

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.