



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/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

22nd MARCH 2026

Missal P133 Order of the Mass P470
Second collection for Poor Parishes

PRIEST CORNER:

Thank you for your patience last week whilst the new drop-off area was installed outside St Paul's. This now allows Funeral and Wedding cars to stop outside the church away from the traffic lights. We are grateful to Kent County Council Highways and Transportation for providing this for the church free of charge as part of the new Pencester Road Traffic Scheme.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

The readings of today point to the presences of God in every difficult situation of life. The death of Lazarus was not a surprise to Jesus rather becomes a means through which he showed the power of God beyond human imagination. Mary and Martha did not lose hope; they accepted the fate of their brother Lazarus and were hoping for his resurrection on the last day. The explanation of Jesus that he is the resurrection didn't make immediate meaning to Mary and Martha until the miracle of raising their brother from death occurred. The verse in the gospel according to John, "Jesus wept" indicates that even Jesus feels the pains of others but do not leave the situation as it is. By inviting the people to unbind Lazarus is an invitation for us to help other people who are in difficulties. Let us hear the word again in our heart and help those around us who cannot help themselves. Raising Lazarus from dead reminds us that even in those difficult situations that we cannot help ourselves that Jesus is always there. Jesus' death felt hopeless to his followers, but his resurrection gave them fulfilment and courage to stand firm in their faith. As we get closer to the day of the resurrection, let us continue to journey with Jesus and rise with him to glory on the resurrection day.



SECOND COLLECTION There will be a second collection this week for Poor Parishes. The Poor Parishes is formerly the Needs of the Diocese collection, this collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. **Thomas Russell Bramwell** from St. Finbarr's, husband of Vera and lifelong member of St Finbarr's parish; **Cathy Huntley** from St. Paul's, mother of Clare and Joe and sister-in-law to Mary our parish secretary. Funeral arrangements to follow; **Iris (Tilly) Ball** whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St Paul's this Wednesday 25th March at 11.30am**, followed by burial at St James Cemetery; May They Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY, SEOUL SOUTH KOREA 3-8 AUGUST 2027 meeting **this Sunday at 6pm** in St Paul's Upper Hall. All young people in the Parish are invited from ages 16 to 35.

INDUCTION OF FR. GABRIEL as the parish priest of the Good Shepherd parish by Bishop Paul Hendricks 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.

YOUTH MUSTARD SEEDS invite children aged 9–15 to a screening of “**The Story of Jesus**” on **Saturday 28th March** in the Hall of St Paul Church. Refreshments will be provided.

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

EASTER FLOWERS. There will be a **second collection next Sunday, 29th March** for **Easter Flowers**.

AWARD OF FIRST CONFESSION CERTIFICATES. Children at both St Paul's and St Finbarr's who successfully made their first confession recently will be awarded their certificate at the **9am and 11am Masses** respectively on **Palm Sunday 29th March**.

THANK YOU We would like to say many thanks to all who helped and attended our son Neil's Memorial Service. We are also very grateful to all those who donated to the MND Charity. We were able to send them a donation of £300. Len and Bernadette.

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 mits, 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.

THANK YOU, EASTER EGG DONATIONS ST. PAUL'S. Thank you to anonymous donor who donated £40 for Easter Eggs for the children of the parish. This generous donation has allowed for us to purchase plenty of eggs and means we no longer need any more donations. Thank you to anyone who has donated, and God Bless the anonymous donor! - Mustard Seeds Team.

LENT AT ST. FINBARR'S 2026 - Fides warmly invites you to join with us to watch the final Lenten video by the acclaimed Bishop Robert Barron. The video will be followed by a short discussion and a time of prayer. **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. **Stations of the Cross continues every Sunday at 10.15am during Lent**.

ST FINBARR'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY 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.

LENTEN RETREAT This **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.**

SPRING PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY April 18th 10.30 A.M. from St Mary's Church, Chilham via St Mary's Church, Chartham to Canterbury and finishing with evensong in the Cathedral. Contact: Eddie Gilmore at gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

BISHOP PAUL HENDRICKS, I warmly invite you to join me on this year's **SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21 to 28 August 2026**. A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled. Last year, Deacon John Fogarty and I did a short presentation in parishes, which we would be happy to repeat in your parish, if it can be arranged. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/> We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026> For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) or Deacon John Fogarty (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk) or myself, Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

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 5th and 19th April	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 20th April	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Sunday 6pm	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 1pm – 4pm 28th March	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

What is confession?

Confession is the telling of our sins to an authorized priest for the purpose of obtaining forgiveness. An authorized priest is one who has not only the power to forgive sins by reason of his ordination to the priesthood, but also the power of jurisdiction over the persons who come to him. He has this jurisdiction ordinarily from his bishop, or by reason of his office. "I have confessed my sin to thee, and my fault I have not concealed; I said: 'I confess my iniquity to the Lord,' and thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 31:5). (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: 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 Hembrey, 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: Michael Watts, Daniel Donnachie, Janet Anne Wiseman, Stella Willetts, James Herr, Vincent Yore, Peter Yore, Francis Tierney Gallagher, Agnes Stevenson McKenna, Joan Elliott.

St Paul's: Sr. Joseph DC, Winifred Corbett, George Stratford, Violet Goddard, George Carr, Mary Jane (Maureen) Gibbs, Sean Thomas Ronan, Molly Townhill, Rita Charlotte Milford, Sheila Pople, Albert Townhill, Marian Clay, Shane Clay, Georgina Clay, Phylis Conlon, Janusia Ashton, Anita Lee, John Sharp, Ethel Kate Newman, Frederick Natall, Yvonne O'Brien, Brigadier Gilbert Hickey, Flo Roberts, Josephine Hennin, Ian Dalziel, Norma Nunn.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
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 'F'
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Wednesday 25th March	10am	Mass for People of Lebanon
	Thursday 26th March	7pm	Fides Prayer Group
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Sunday 29th March	9.30am 10.15am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for Liz & Fran RIP (Bet) Presentation of First Confession Certificates
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
	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. World Youth Day meeting 16-35 All Welcome
SAINT TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP.	Monday 23rd March	10am	Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (The Atmore Family)
	Tuesday 24th March	10am 7pm	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE Sacrament of Reconciliation
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Wednesday 25th March	10am 11.30am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for G/E Graeme Crew (Tim) Requiem Mass for Iris (Tilly) Ball Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall
	Thursday 26th March	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Sheila) Bible Study in the Hall
	Friday 27th March	10am 6pm	Mass for G/E Paul and Family (Sheila) Stations of the Cross
	Saturday 28th March	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Angela, Patrick & Family (Sheila) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Carol Smye-Rumsby RIP (Anne & Peter)
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Sunday 29th March	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for G/E Monica (Sheila) Presentation of First Confession Certificates Mass for Cathy Huntley RIP (Margaret & Jan) 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 avleshamsg2@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.
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Readings for Sunday

22nd March 2026

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

'I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.'

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

or: Alleluia.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

or: Alleluia.

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

or: Alleluia.

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

or: Alleluia.

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the LORD.
For with the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.*

or: Alleluia.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

'The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.'

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Everyone who believes in me shall never die.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

John 11:25a, 26

Gospel

John 11:1-45

'I am the resurrection and the life.'

At that time: A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.' After saying these things, he said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.' Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in 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.