



St Paul's Presbytery 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU
St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ
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Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A 8th MARCH 2026

Missal P121 Order of the Mass P470

PRIEST CORNER: IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Following the completion of the Pencester Road scheme and the introduction of the new junction signals at the Maison Dieu Road junction last year, KCC have been working with us to improve our parking arrangements for services held at the church, specifically related to weddings and funeral services. Accordingly, KCC Contractor Amey will be undertaking works to create an off-road parking area in front of the church. The works are planned to commence on **Tuesday 10th March** and are expected to be completed **within 2 weeks**. Whilst the works are carried out, **the area in front of the church will be barriered off, with the main entrance to the church closed for the duration of the works. Parishioners will be required to use the side access to gain entry to the church.** It will also be necessary for the contractor to park a works vehicle alongside the church and also occasionally offload materials from this area. They will endeavour to keep these to a minimum with access maintained to the residents parking. It may be necessary to have lane closures on the A256 Maison Dieu Road to carry out some of the works activities safely but if these are required these will be off-peak between 0930 and 1500. We appreciate your patience and co-operation whilst these works are undertaken, If you do have any questions or require more information about this work, please contact KCC via email at pencesterroad@kent.gov.uk

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Most stories of life have a beginning, the middle and the end. Sometimes one gets into difficulties when there is a plan to jump a crucial stage. The people of Israel began their journey of liberation from Egypt and at the middle of their life story wanted to jump to the end. They made Moses to demand from God part of what was going to be the end of their life story which is God settling them in the promised land filled with milk and honey. Their story is different from the woman who encountered Jesus in the well where she came to collect water. She had a difficult life before meeting Jesus. The beginning of her story was a rough life experience, and the middle of her life story was meeting Jesus, and their time of dialogue brought her to the next stage of her story when Jesus transformed her. She became spiritually fulfilled and new. Our life story may resemble her story in different ways. From our difficult past to our present. During Lent, we encounter Jesus and through interaction with him, we get transformed. Let us not be afraid to engage with Jesus at this period of Lent which is the middle of our life story. This interaction will bring us to the climax of our life story which is the promise of resurrection.



INDUCTION OF FR. GABRIEL as the parish priest of the Good Shepherd parish by Bishop Paul Hendricks will be on **Thursday 16th of April 2026 with a 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**. We are very grateful to Mr Colin Taylor, the headteacher, for allowing us to use the school hall. 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. Mary Pamela Brown, whose Requiem Mass will take place at St Paul's on **Monday 9th March at 11.30am**; 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.

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

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.

YOUTH MUSTARD SEEDS ST. PAUL'S invite children aged 9 to 15 to join us for a special **Mother's Day celebration on March 14th in St. Paul Hall 1pm - 4pm.** We'll enjoy games, activities, Bible study, singing, and fellowship. And if you've got a spare coin or two, a tiny donation would be awesome!

MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST. PAUL'S will meet next 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 mits, nappy cream, nappy sacks, changing mats, Moses basket blankets (boy), comforters/teddies- 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.

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.

LENT AT ST. FINBARR'S 2026 - 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, 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**

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.

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.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN DOVER (CTiD) AGM, Thursday 12th 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 All are welcome. Deacon Barry.

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.*



ST PAUL'S GIRL MAKES FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN INDIA

Congratulations to Johanna, a member of the St Paul's First Holy Communion Preparation Group 2025, who made her First Holy Communion in the presence of her immediate and wider family plus friends on the 14th February 2026, Infant Jesus Church, Kidangoor, Kerala, India. Johanna now receives Holy Communion with us on a regular basis. Every blessing. Deacon Barry.

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	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Third Monday 2pm – 3pm Next 16th March	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 Next 12th March	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Junior Youth Group	Saturday 14th March 1pm – 4pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm Final Session 9th March	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Stations of the Cross	Friday 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
Stations of the Cross	Sunday 10.15am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham

CATECHISM - WHAT IS HOLY COMMUNION?



Holy Communion is the receiving of Jesus Christ in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Just as it is necessary to nourish our bodies with material food, so also it is necessary to nourish our souls with spiritual food. Our Divine Saviour so loved us that He gave us Himself in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist; He gave us His own body and blood as food for our souls. It is not necessary that we receive Our Lord's body and blood under the appearances of both bread and wine. Christ is entirely present under the appearances of bread, and also entirely present under the appearances of wine.

Therefore, we receive Him whole and entire under the appearances of bread alone or of wine alone. (Baltimore Catechism). Jesus therefore said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has life everlasting and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink: indeed. He who eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, abides in me: and I in him. (John 6:54)

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, Cathy Huntley, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.

Please Pray for those whose death anniversaries occur this week:

St Finbarr's: Brian Michael Docherty, Mary Agnes Bancroft, Margaret Ford, Audrey Hobbs, Patricia (Wendy) Herve.

St Paul's: Cyril Connolly, Jim Costello, Jim Carter, Keith Armstrong, Albert George Goodacre, Margaret Buckingham, Salvatore Pasquino, Collette Berry, Jane Francis, Gillian Thomson, Arthur Jones, Brian Blomfield, Philip Cloke, Ethel Gore, Keith O'Meara, John McSweeney, Agnes (Molly) Threadgill, Stan Newman, James Joseph Gillan, Mary O'Keeffe, Ernest Michael Huntley, Philip Bywaters, Rose Creed, Baby Joshua Wells, John Fuller, Mary Coen, Pat Carr, Paul Coe.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	Sunday 8th March	9.30am 10.15am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Stations of the Cross Mass for The Elderly and Infirm
	Wednesday 11th February	10am	Mass for Priests of Southwark Diocese
	Thursday 12th March	7pm	Fides Prayer Group
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
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
	Saturday 7th March	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Deceased Family & Friends of Theresa Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Mike Nelson RIP (Tim)
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	Sunday 8th March	9am 11am 3pm 4pm 6pm	Mass for Keith and Theresa Wedding Anniversary Mass for Carol RIP and Paul & 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
COLLECT OF SAINT FRANCES OF ROME	Monday 9th March	10am 11.30am 7pm	Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert) Requiem Mass for Mary Brown RCIA in the Upper Hall
	Tuesday 10th March	10am	Mass for G/E Peter Clarke (Tim)
	Wednesday 11th March	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for G/E Palmyra Willis (Tim) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall
	Thursday 12th March	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Fr. James Laws 'F' Bible Study in the Hall
	Friday 13th March	10am 6pm	Mass for G/E Jose Smallcombe (Tim) Stations of the Cross led by Familia Una Group
	Saturday 14th March	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Anne Holiday & Ernest Michael Huntley RIP (Mary) 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 6pm	Mass for Peter Grilli RIP (Theresa & Family) 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

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: dovernnewsletter@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 March 2026

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

'Give us water to drink.'

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts.'

or: Alleluia.

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts.'

or: Alleluia.

O come; let us bow and bend low.

Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts.'

or: Alleluia.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts.'

or: Alleluia.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Cf. John 4:42. 15

Gospel

John 4:5-42

'A spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman

said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

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.