



St Paul's Presbytery 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU
 St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ
 Parish Priest: Fr Leo Illah CSSp 01304 206766, leoillah@rcaos.org.uk
 Asst: Fr Godwin Alkali CSSp 01304 206766 godwinalkali@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
 Dover SVP Conference: 07596 544109
 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>

Sunday, 15th December 2024
Third Sunday of Advent –Year C – Missal Pg. 40.
Order of the Mass-Missal Pg. 470

**THIS WEEKEND THERE WILL BE A 2ND COLLECTION
 FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

**YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEAL TODAY (SUNDAY)
 12 NOON IN ST PAUL'S HALL**

**CAROL SERVICE IN ST PAUL'S THIS EVENING (SUNDAY) 7PM
 AND ST FINBARR'S WEDNESDAY 7PM**

GAUDETE SUNDAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

The central theme of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, by our



renewal of life, and by our faithful doing of God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose-coloured vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Saviour. In the Gospel, (Luke 3:10-18); the people asked, what should we do in preparation for the coming of the Messiah? John answered; "Repent and reform your lives," and prayerfully wait for the Messiah.

Suggestions: Regular monthly Confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more grace in the Eucharist. Let us read the Bible and pray the Rosary daily. We might also fast once a month or week. Let us have the courage of our Christian convictions to turn off TV programs that include explicit sexual behavior, violence and the use of foul language. Let us spend some time every week in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who offend us and pray for them. Finally, let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. "Do small things but with great love" (St. Teresa of Calcutta, "Mother Teresa").

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS



I would like to invite everyone to our Parish Christmas Carols tonight by 7pm (Sunday, 15th of Dec. 7pm). Come and let us sing to the Lord and celebrate the advent of our saviour. Let's share a drink in the hall after the service.
 Fr. Leo

SIX MONTHS GONE.



Today marks six months since the death of my beloved Mother, Mrs. Regina Illah. I am eternally grateful to God for allowing her to be my mother. My world has changed since her demise and I still struggle every day to deal with it. I want to thank all the Parishioners who stood by me with prayers and supports of all kinds through those moments. I am grateful to you all. Here is a link with which you can view some of the Photos from her Funeral Mass in Nigeria. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Vgsuz5VDJo8j4zCW5>.

On another note, I want to thank all those who supported and made donations for the support of the Orphanage which my mother was involved with. She was caring for many Children until her death. The Holy Family Sisters in Gwagwalada, Abuja Nigeria will continue to look after all the children she cared for. Click on the link here to see some photos of the children from St. Mary's Orphanage. God bless. Fr. Leo. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/HVLqb5CYp1E9eTJ99>



Thank you to all on the Service team who helped in organizing the Christmas Party for the Junior Youth Group and the Mustard Seed Children last Sunday. May the Lord bless you for all you do. Fr. Leo.

Volunteering to drive someone to church or to the hospital: Do you want to make yourself available to help in driving to the hospital or accompanying some one to Church? If you feel called to support this type of ministry, do have a word with Fr. Leo and he will explain to you what it entails. Thank you. Fr. Leo

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2025 GROUP. St Paul's and St Finbarr's.

The First Holy Communion (FHC) preparation program 2025 commences on **SATURDAY 4th January, at 9.30am, St Paul's Church Hall**, and on **SUNDAY 5th January 9.30am, at St Finbarr's Church**.

This is the first of the weekly preparation classes and will continue on each successive Saturdays at St Paul's and Sundays at St Finbarr's until June 2025, with the exception of half and end of term school holidays. The move to Sunday mornings before Mass from Saturday mornings at St Finbarr's is new in order to facilitate greater attendance. Both at St Paul's and St Finbarr's every child **MUST** attend each of the FHC sessions and **STAY** with their parent throughout. This helps parents to: better understand the program; support their child's ongoing development and meet and support other FHC parents. FHC application forms are available from the back of both churches, or by emailing Deacon Barry barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk or Carina at carinamjarvie@aol.com or downloading a copy from the parish website <https://www.parihofthegoodshepherd.uk/reconciliation-first-holy-communion/> Deacon Barry, Carina Jarvie.

PRAYER CHAIN. The children of St Paul's have begun a 'Prayer chain'- a paper chain which will be displayed as part of Christmas decorations. It would be great if everyone in St Paul's could complete a link of the chain. Strips of paper are at the back of the hall, please write a prayer on it and place it in the basket.

MUSTARD SEEDS – CHRISTMAS EVE. On 22nd December, after 09:15am Mass at St Paul's, we would like to spend 15 minutes or so practicing with the children in the church for Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, please can the children arrive at the church at 5:30pm. For those children wearing a costume, please can they wear a t-shirt & leggings/jogging bottoms that will fit easily under their costume. There will be reserved pews at the front of the church for the children's families. Thank you for your support. Laura & Jan.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD. If you didn't collect a Christmas Card after Mass last weekend please pick one up from the back of church today. The times of the Christmas Services are on the card.

WINTER SOUP KITCHEN AT ST. PAUL'S: We shall be having our Winter soup Kitchen at St. Paul's Hall every Sunday afternoon by 4pm - 6pm; starting from the 15th of December 2024. We are providing a warm space for the those who are homeless or lonely or just needing a place to chat on a Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering for this project or donating to it; kindly e-mail Claudine Nutley claudinenutley@btinternet.com or speak with Fr. Leo. Caring for the homeless and the needy in our community is a duty in Christ. Let's do our bit for the Lord. Fr. Leo.

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSAL. Please collect a Missal as you come into church and return it to the back of church after use. Please do not take the parish Missal away. If you would like to buy a personal copy to use and take home, they are £20 each. Let Mary know in the parish office if you would like to order one. Delivery of further Missals is not expected until mid-January.

FR PETER MADDEN'S seventh anniversary of his death is **Monday 16th of December**. Please remember him in your prayers and thank God for his 43-year priestly ministry spanning seven parishes including St Paul's (2004 - 2017), 3 years (1988 1991) Kent Traveling Mission, and 1996/7 the Children's Society. Deacon Barry

THE RCIA COURSE will resume on **Monday 13th January 2025**.

THE ADULT SYCAMORE COURSE AT ST PAUL'S will resume on **Wednesday 15th January 2025**

SYCAMORE COURSE FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGED 16-35 AT ST PAUL'S will resume on **Sunday 19th January 2025**.

ST JUDES PRAYER GROUP. It is with regret that there will be No meeting this month. The Prayer Group will recommence on January 20th at 2pm in St Paul's Parish Hall.

ST PAUL'S REPOSITORY. Catholic Diaries, Advent Calendars, and Christmas Cards are available in the hall after Sunday 9:15 a.m. Mass until 10:55 a.m. each week. Also, other cards and rosaries.

Parish of The Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal		
December 2024		
Rosary and Bible Study at St Paul's	Thursday 19th December 9.30am & 10.30am OT Book of Exodus	St Paul's, Dover
MASS SCHEDULES OVER CHRISTMAS 2024		
CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24 TH DECEMBER	6PM MASS (WITH CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SINGING (CAROL 5:30PM) 10 PM MASS (CAROLS AT 9:30 PM)	ST PAUL'S, DOVER
CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24 TH DECEMBER	7PM MASS (CAROLS AT 6:30PM)	ST FINBARR'S, AYLESHAM
CHRISTMAS DAY	10AM MASS	ST PAUL'S, DOVER
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.30AM MASS	ST FINBARR'S, AYLESHAM

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO RESPONDED AGAINST THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL. We need MPs to know that their constituents want them to vote NO at Third Reading. **Please take action now and ask your local MP to vote against the Bill at Third Reading.** Visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASvote to find out how your MP voted. **The Dover & Aylesham MP is Mike Tapp. You can email him at mike.tapp.mp@parliament.uk** *Please pray for all those who are suffering in mind and body that they receive the care everyone is entitled to, to help them through the pain of suffering. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*

THE CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE Every parishioner, as well as teachers and parents in our schools, has free and unlimited access to the workshops created by the world-renowned Catechetical Institute. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account visit: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan>

Please Pray for those who are unwell:

St Finbarr's: Ann McCallum, 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 Meadows, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Chris Quinn, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, Danielle Sutton, Fr John Ryan, Pat Evans, Shirley Lazarus, Shirley Jefford, Clare Quigley, Gail White, Neil Stevens, John & Joyce Nix, Bailey Turner, Peggy Merrell, Ryan Whittall, Iris (Tilly) Ball, Jean Ann Dowle, Norman Woolhouse, Ted Peel, Christopher Browne, Angela, Alice Wilson, Angela Henbrey, Madison Woodall, Julie Balston, Elisa Gomez Melero, Ann Tomalak, Cathy Huntley, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.

Please Pray for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

St Finbarr's: Daniel Donnachie, Sr. Louise Dunphy, Frances Joan Plews, Bryan Peter Finn.

St Paul's: Kath Carswell, Frank Illingworth, Fr. Nicholas Broder, Hans Heuer, Ann Brett, Ronald Cloke, Anne-Marie Saueressig; Fr Peter Madden, Nora Townhill, Fr. Terence Tanner, Ken Knight, Ellen O'Halleran, Aubrey Watkins, Mary McMullan, Valerie Tattersell, Andrew Carr, Thomas McGowan, John Corkery, Basil Gummer, Aiden Henneker, Peter Henneker, Irene Organ, Thomas Howels, Jim Gayson, Jack Ferris, Anne-Marie McDonald, Frank Gaughran, Anne Brett, John Roy, Redmond Goodfellow, Pamela Curd.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS	Saturday 14th December	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 15th December	11.15am	Mass for Mary Teresa Graves RIP & Teresa Breen RIP (Bridget Graves)
	Wednesday 18th December	10.15am 7pm	Mass for Peace in the Middle East CAROL CONCERT IN THE CHURCH followed by refreshments
	Saturday 21st December	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 22nd December	11.15am	Mass for Fran and Liz (Anniversary) (Bet)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS	Saturday 14th December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for the Sick of the Parish Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Frederic Compton 'F'
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 15th December	9.15am 9.15am 11am 12noon 3pm 7pm	Mass for Fr Nicholas Broder 'F' MUSTARD SEEDS Children's Liturgy Coffee after Mass Mass for Fr Terence Tanner 'F' YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEAL IN THE HALL Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet CAROL CONCERT IN THE CHURCH followed by refreshments in the hall
	Monday 16th December	10am	Mass for Fr Peter Madden RIP
	Tuesday 17th December	10am	Mass for Callie Lewis RIP (Tim)
	Wednesday 18th December	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Aiden Henneker RIP (Sheila) Exposition and the Holy Rosary until 6.30pm
	Thursday 19th December	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary in the church Mass for Peter Henneker RIP (Sheila) Bible Study in the Hall
	Friday 20th December	10am	Mass for The James and Roche Families (Tim)
	Saturday 21st December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Sheila's Friends Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Fr David Maher RIP (Colin)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 22nd December	9.15am 9.15am 11am 3pm	Mass for Pauline Mahon RIP (Jim) MUSTARD SEEDS Children's Liturgy Coffee after Mass Mass for Aidan Henneker RIP (Shivaun & Fiona) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet

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.
 A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024

First reading Zephaniah 3:14-18a

'The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.'

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements
against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

'Fear not, O Sion;

let not your hands grow weak.

The Lord your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the
festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R3 Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

1. Behold, God is my salvation!

I will trust, and will not be afraid;

for the Lord is my strength and my praise,

and he has been my salvation.

With joy you will draw water

from the springs of salvation.

2. Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;

make known among the peoples his deeds;

proclaim that his name is exalted.

3. Sing to the Lord for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in
Sion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.

Second reading Philippians 4:4-7

'The Lord is at hand.'

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord
always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your
reasonableness be known to everyone. The
Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about
anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. And the peace
of God, which surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18) Alleluia, alleluia.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the
poor.
Alleluia.**

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

'And we, what shall we do?'

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What,
then, shall we do?' And he answered them,
'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him
who has none, and whoever has food is to do
likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be
baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall
we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more
than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also
asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he
said to them, 'Do not extort money from
anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be
content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts
concerning John, whether he might be the
Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I
baptise you with water, but he who is mightier
than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I
am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing
fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the
chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So
with many other exhortations he preached good
news to the people.

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.**