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 St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>



Sunday 29th December 2024
**The Holy Family of Jesus,
 Mary, and Joseph**
Year C – Missal Pg. 74.
Order of the Mass-Missal Pg. 470
**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY,
 HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**



PRIEST CORNER: THANK YOU: A blessed and happy new year to all of our parish families. We give thanks to God for 2024 and we look forward to the blessings and joys of 2025. On behalf of the Clergy, I want to thank you all for all the cards, the gifts, the foods and the love which we have received over the Christmas season. We are most grateful. We are grateful to all the people volunteering in our Parish, doing amazing jobs of supporting all the services; starting from the little Children's group up to all the numerous areas. We count you all as gifts and may the Lord reward you all. Wishing you all the very best in the new year. Fr. Leo.

FR JEFF WRITES: I hope you have all had a Happy Christmas. As a regular reader of your newsletter I am glad to report I love reading it and finding out all about what you are up to. I am keeping well and settling into my new role as chaplain at St. Peter's Residence, a grand but modern Old Folk's Home in Vauxhall, run by The Little Sisters of The Poor, where I have my own house just outside the gates. I am enjoying my new life but am very grateful to Fr. Leo who has kindly said yes to my staying in the presbytery at St. Paul's for a week, starting on New Year's Eve. It will be lovely to see you all and have a rest too. Looking forward to seeing you all. Fr. Jeff.



**Archdiocese of Southwark Pastoral Letter on the
 Solemnity of the Holy Family 2024
 for the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope**

To be read at all Sunday Masses on Sat 28/Sun 29 December 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
 Peace and joy to you, and to your families and loved ones, in this holy season of Christmas. Today's Feast of the Holy Family marks the opening of the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese and across the Catholic Church worldwide. Its theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope.' As we launch this Year of renewal in faith, we seek to learn from the blessed household in Nazareth where the Lord Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, lived in simplicity, in love, and in faithfulness to the Father's will.

Looking to the Holy Family, we too are called to be pilgrims of hope, just like Mary and Joseph. As they journeyed with faith and trust, so must we. So, how do you live hopefully in light of Christ? In a world yearning for the tender closeness of Christ, how are you his hopeful presence to others?

'See what kind of love the Father has given to us,' explains St John, 'that we should be called children of God.' (1 John 3:1) Our identity as beloved children of God is the foundation of our discipleship as the family of God. The Lord Jesus came into the world in the embrace of a family. Through him, we are drawn into the very life of God as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This Jubilee Year is a summons to live together as pilgrims of hope. This is not just about being optimistic, or trying to keep cheerful. Christian hope means living with the desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. It means relying on Christ's promises and the help of the Holy Spirit. (cf. CCC 1817) .

Our world needs witnesses to this hope. It needs disciples whose lives shine with the certainty that the Lord is near, even in times of darkness and suffering. Our hope grows stronger, not by avoiding difficulties, but by facing them with faith. God in Christ is Emmanuel - God with us always, no matter what. The famous words of Padre Pio, St Pio, encourage us all - 'Pray, hope and don't worry.' Or, at least, pray, hope and try not to worry. The Lord is with us, the Lord is with you. Trust him and draw closer to him, especially through prayer and the Scriptures, through confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through the Holy Eucharist, and through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As



pilgrims of hope, in this Jubilee year of grace, I invite you, dear brothers and sisters, to renew your spiritual life and your service to others.

The Holy Family reminds us that evangelisation and mission begin in the heart and in the home. To parents I say 'thank you' for teaching your children to love the Lord Jesus, to pray, and to understand their faith; and, not least, to know the friendship of the saints. To our young people, I say 'do not be afraid to embrace your faith with courage.' The Lord Jesus is calling you to great things. Know, love and serve him, and he will guide your steps.

So many people today carry heavy burdens – whether of sickness, grief, or loneliness, or in others ways, sometimes hidden. Know that you are especially close to the heart of the Lord Jesus and his Church. You can be powerful missionaries of hope, showing the world that God in Christ is near to the broken-hearted and raises up those who are crushed in spirit. (Cf. Ps. 34:18) The Church is a family of families. There are no orphans in Christ. We all have a home in the Church. In Christ, we are united as brothers and sisters, called to bear one another's burdens and rejoice in one another's happiness.

In this Jubilee year, I ask everyone in our Archdiocese to renew our commitment to building a culture of welcome and belonging within our parishes and schools. Let us seek out those on the margins – people who experience isolation, poverty, and despair. Let us be a Church where all feel at home, where the wounded find mercy, where the weary encounter rest, and where we all journey together in faith, hope and love. As we begin our Jubilee pilgrimage, may our lives shine with the light of Christ, and, through him, may we bring his hope-filled joy to everyone we meet along the way.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season for the Jubilee Year, and with the assurance of my prayers and gratitude. Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John Wilson- Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (WPCU) 2025

Advanced notice: **Monday 20th - Friday 24th January 10.30am - noon, St Paul's Church Hall Dover** and concludes with an ecumenical worship Service Sunday 26th January 2025, 4.30pm River Parish Church. Programme details to follow.

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.

Parish of The Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal		
January 2025		
First Holy Communion Preparation	Saturday 4 th January 9.30am	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Sunday 5 th January 9.30am	St Finbarr's Aylesham
Rosary and Bible Study at St Paul's. OT Book Exodus.	Thursday 9 th January 9.30am & 10.30am	St Paul's, Dover
THE RCIA COURSE	Monday 13 th January 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
THE ADULT SYCAMORE COURSE	Wednesday 15 th January 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
SYCAMORE COURSE FOR YOUNG ADULTS	Sunday 19 th January 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
ST JUDE'S PRAYER GROUP	Monday 20 th January 2pm	St Paul's, Dover

WINTER SOUP KITCHEN AT ST. PAUL'S HALL every Sunday afternoon 4pm - 6pm; 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.

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: Lady Jenny Bidwell, Barbara Deary, Wilfred Morris, Violet Alice Lonie, Mona Stuart, Annie Cuffe, James Paul Onions.

St Paul's: Dan Carlin, George Smith, Grace Mullan, John Marshall, Ellen Hambrook, Donal Maher, Eileen Wood, Vera Fisher, Germaine Hulbrecht, Guiseppina (Josie) Byford, Helen Gill, Jack Mitchinson, Catherine Smith, Catherine Nolan and Betty Casey, Olive King, William Webster, Mary Jones, Charles Nosedo, Joan Jarvis.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Saturday 28th December	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
THE HOLY FAMILY	Sunday 29th December	11.15am	Mass for The Housebound
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	Wednesday 1st January	10.15am	Mass for Children in War Situations
THE BEATIFIED MARTYRS OF THE DIOCESE	Saturday 4th January	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
THE EPITHANY OF THE LORD	Sunday 5th January	9.30am 11.15am	First Holy Communion preparation in the Church Mass for Eliza Haslip 'F'
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Saturday 28th December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Sandra (Sheila) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Helen Davies RIP (Mary Mee)
THE HOLY FAMILY	Sunday 29th December	9.15am 11am 3pm	Mass for G/E Jim (Sheila). Thanksgiving for John and Joan David on their 6 th Wedding anniversary. Coffee after Mass NO MUSTARD SEEDS Mass for The Francis Family 'F' Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
	Monday 30th December	10am	Mass for Grace RIP (Sheila)
	Tuesday 31st December	10am	Mass for Bernard & Josephine Smye-Rumsby 'F'
NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS	Tuesday Evening 31st December	7pm	Mass of thanksgiving for the end of the year, 2024. Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	Wednesday 1st January	10am	Mass for G/E of Theresa & Keith (Philomena)
SAINT BASIL THE GREAT & SAINT GREGORY NAZIANZEN	Thursday 2nd January	9.30am 10am 10.30am	No Holy Rosary Mass for Pro Life No Bible Study
	Friday 3rd January	10am	Mass for Jean MacKenzie RIP (Robert)
THE BEATIFIED MARTYRS OF THE DIOCESE	Saturday 4th January	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall. Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Blessings for Veronika & Ivo (Tim) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Ron Chitty RIP (Sheila)
THE EPITHANY OF THE LORD	Sunday 5th January	9.15am 11am 3pm	Mass for Jonas Csik (Gizela) Coffee after Mass NO MUSTARD SEEDS Mass for Bridie Kearney RIP (Philomena) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's avleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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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.
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READINGS FOR SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2024

First reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

'Samuel, as long as he lives, is lent to the Lord.'
In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there for ever.'

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.' And he worshipped the Lord there.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. Rcf. 5a

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God.

2. Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.

3. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.

5 Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed.

Second reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

'We are called children of God; and so we are.'
Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his

commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation Cf. Acts 16:14b

Alleluia, alleluia.

**Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of
your Son.**

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

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.