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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>

Sunday, 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent – Year C – Missal Pg. 36.

Order of the Mass-Missal Pg. 470

PRIEST CORNER: THANK YOU SUNDAY: On this day in our Parish, we want to thank all our Parishioners for all the support and generosity toward our Parish in 2024. In March this year, we embarked on “PLANNED GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP DRIVE” and despite the difficulties that goes with talking about Church funds, you all responded massively by giving extra and signing up for the standing order. Some others have given their time and talents and beginning to serve in different areas of our Parish life. Thank you. May the Lord continue to reward you and bless our Parish. Thank you. Fr. Leo.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

The Second Sunday of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in everyone we encounter, and in the praying community. We need to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus our Saviour to be reborn in us during this Christmas time. We have to fill in the “valleys” of our souls, formed from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist living out of our Faith. We have to straighten whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harbouring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris.



As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the “mountains” of our pride and egocentrism by practicing the true humility of rendering humble service to others.

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.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/reconciliation-first-holy-communion/> Deacon Barry, Carina Jarvie.

MUSTARD SEEDS & JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ST PAUL'S. Mustard Seeds time change: The Mustard Seeds will be at **11am** this week. Afterwards, we will be having a Christmas party in the hall. All children are invited! There will be crafts, games, singing and lots to eat! **On Christmas Eve Children's Mass 6pm** - The Mustard Seeds will be dressing up as the Nativity, singing songs and leading us in prayer. If your child would like to take part it isn't too late! Please see Laura, Jan, or Maeve.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS. The parish will be holding two Christmas Carol Concerts; **On Sunday 15th December at 7pm in St Paul's and Wednesday 18th December 7pm in St Finbarr's.** Everyone is invited to attend these special concerts.

YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEAL on **Sunday 15th December from 12noon in St Paul's Hall.** All young people aged 16 to 35 years old are invited from St Paul's Church and St Finbarr's. For anyone with allergies or any other questions please contact Christina 07587 218374 or Jack 07710 430893.

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.

NEXT WEEKEND there will be a second collection for Christmas Flowers.

COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER: Cash & CollecTin £2784.74; Bankers Orders £3394.00; Spiritan Appeal £461.69; Archbishops Appeal £327.78; SVP £450.75; Holy Souls £700.00 Thank you for your generosity. Fr. Leo.

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

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.

MASS SCHEDULES OVER CHRISTMAS 2024		
CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24TH DECEMBER	6PM MASS (WITH CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SINGING-CAROL 5:30PM) 10 PM MASS (CAROLS AT 930 PM)	ST PAUL'S, DOVER
CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24TH 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 WHOSE RESPONDED AGAINST THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL.

There is a clear path toward the Assisted Suicide Bill being defeated at Third Reading. Early analysis shows that at least 36 MPs supported the Bill but have concerns that mean they may vote NO at later stages. Just 28 MPs switching their stance to NO would ensure it is defeated at Third Reading. 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

Dear Lord, we pray for all those who are suffering in mind and body that they receive the care every human being is entitled to, to help them through the pain of suffering. Amen.

THE NEXT RCIA COURSE is on **Monday 9th December at 7pm** in St Paul's Upper Hall, the final one before Christmas. We shall restart on **Monday 13th January 2025.**

SYCAMORE COURSE FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGED 16-35 AT ST PAUL'S This Sunday at 6pm is the final meeting until the New Year. We resume on **Sunday 19th January 2025.**

THE ADULT SYCAMORE COURSE AT ST PAUL'S Every Wednesday (6.40 for 7pm) beginning with refreshments and concluding by 8.30pm.

SHINE THE LIGHT Come and join the big Christmas Carol Sing, St. James's Shopping Centre, Dover (by the Christmas Tree) **SATURDAY 14th December 2pm – 3 pm.**

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	
Mustard Seeds & Junior Youth Group Christmas Party	Sunday 8th December 12 noon	St Paul's, Dover
Young Adult Sycamore Group	Sunday 8th December 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
RCIA Course	Monday 9th December 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Adult Sycamore Group	Wednesday 11th December 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Rosary and Bible Study at St Paul's	Thursday 12th December 9.30am & 10.30am OT Book of Exodus	St Paul's, Dover
Young Adults Christmas Party & Meal	Sunday 15th December 12 noon	St Paul's, Dover
Christmas Carol Concert	Sunday 15th December 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Christmas Carol Concert	Wednesday 18th December 7pm	St Finbarr's, Aylesham

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>

ADVENT OF THE HEART: A CHRISTIAN REFLECTION ON HOPE - Advent Talks in Deal:

Tuesday 10th December 7 - 8.30pm. 'Voices from the Darkness, The Advent Reflections of Alfred Delp SJ and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.' Join Ben Bano as he shares reflections from the book he is writing on the spirituality of these two remarkable men. All welcome. Entrance free (a voluntary contribution to cover costs may be given). Venue: Golf Road Community Centre, 28 Golf Road, Deal, CT14 6PY. Some car parking available at the Centre – more on the adjoining streets. Fr Brian Coyle, Deal Parish.

ADVENT TALKS AT OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL Parish Hall, 2 Blackhouse Hill, Hythe CT21 5LS. Pick up a flyer at the back of church for more information or go to <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/events/>

Talk Nos 3 "Prayer" Tuesday 10th December at 7.00 pm and again on **Thursday 12th December at 2.00 pm:** "Prayer": A Surge of the Heart. Presented by Bishop Mark Davies, Fr Marcus Holden, Fr Andrew Pinent, and Joanna Bogle. [Film Duration 2014; 39 mins] This presentation challenges us to overcome difficulties to pray, how to find inspiration in the lives of the saints, the centrality of the Holy Mass, and the ultimate goal of prayer. Free admission and refreshments. Donations welcome.

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 Hembrey, 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: Michael McIntyre | Joseph Arthur Kelly, James Connolly, Francis (Frank) Deary, Margaret Golden.

St Paul's: Daniel Scannell, James Mahon, Mary Butcher, Eric Smitten, Charlotte Hill, Ilona Parker, Arthur John Evans, Baby Lucia Horvathova, Howard Wilson, Colin Todd, Christian Heynen, Derek Friend, John Peers, Adrienne Wright, Gertrude Iverson, Betty Chapman, Albert Fletcher, Horace Francis Munro, Harry Curtin, Audrey Margaret Naylor, Malcolm Brenchley, Joachim Elliott, Kathleen Laffey, Iris May.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
SAINT AMBROSE	Saturday 7th December	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 8th December	11.15am	Mass for Mark James Jenkins RIP 50 th Anniversary (Sue Harris)
SAINT DAMASCUS	Wednesday 11th December	10.15am	Mass for Pro Life Mission
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)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
SAINT AMBROSE	Saturday 7th December	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Blessings for Veronika & Ivo (Tim) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for The Holy Souls (Tim)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday 8th December	9.15am 11am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Josephine Papamalla RIP (James Aime) Coffee after Mass Mass for Clare Hardaker RIP (Theresa & Family) MUSTARD SEEDS Children's Liturgy followed by MUSTARD SEEDS & JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE HALL Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Young Adults Sycamore Group in the Hall Upper Room
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Monday 9th December	10am 7pm	Mass for Ian Thomas Barber RIP (Colin) RCIA course in the Hall Upper Room
OUR LADY OF LORETO	Tuesday 10th December	10am	Mass for Jutta Knox (Tim)
SAINT DAMASCUS	Wednesday 11th December	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Margaret Page 'F' Exposition and the Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Adult Sycamore Course in the Hall
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	Thursday 12th December	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary in the church Mass for Horace Munro RIP (Moya) Bible Study in the Hall
SAINT LUCY	Friday 13th December	10am	Mass for Mary & Harry Curtin RIP (John & Mary)
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 6pm 7pm	Mass for Fr Nicholas Broder 'F' MUSTARD SEEDS Children's Liturgy Coffee after Mass Mass for All Missionaries YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEAL IN THE HALL Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Young Adults Sycamore Group in the Hall Upper Room CAROL CONCERT IN THE CHURCH

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

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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 8TH DECEMBER 2024

First reading **Baruch 5:1-9**

'God will show your splendour.'

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting.

For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.

For your name will for ever be called by God: 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness.'

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east

and see your children gathered from west and east,

at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Responsorial Psalm

126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R3

**What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.**

Second reading **Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11**

'Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.'

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation **Luke 3:4, 6**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 3:1-6**

'All flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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.