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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 12th January 2025
The Baptism of the Lord. Year C –
Missal Pg.100
Order of the Mass-Missal Pg. 470



GOSPEL REFLECTION- BAPTISM OF THE LORD
(LIVING UP TO OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES)

Today's Sunday is the Baptism of the Lord which marks the end of Christmas season. The Greek word for baptism is **baptisma (βαπτισμα)**. It is derived from the verb **baptizō (βαπτίζω)**, which means "I wash". According to the Penny Catechism No 256, Baptism is a Sacrament of initiation which cleanses us from original sin, makes us Christians, children of God and members of the Church. If baptism washes away Original Sin and Jesus was without sin, then why was he baptized? Jesus was God and man. His baptism was not for washing



away sin but to show his humanity and to teach us the importance and necessity of baptism. He was baptized to show solidarity with us for he was like us in all things but sin. He was baptized to sanctify the waters of baptism. He was baptized to show us the good example that whatever he said, he did. Today's celebration affords us the opportunity to reflect on our Baptism, to renew those promises we made to God and recommit ourselves to Christ in whose name we were baptized. The baptism of Christ is a potent introduction to the life of humility. Christ took our nature, humbled himself further and went lower to

accept the baptism of John which was a baptism of repentance; though he had no sin. Today's feast encourages us to show good example to others. Christ showed us the way to baptism and went there himself. We should ask ourselves, are we leading people to the water of life or to the water of damnation? This feast shows us that we can't baptise ourselves. Someone must baptise us. The baptismal life urges us to despise darkness and to walk in the light.

As baptised Christians, how faithful have we been to God in terms of keeping baptismal promises. Are we still saying, "I do" to questions like: "Do you reject Satan? Do you reject sin? Do you believe in one God and one Holy Catholic Church? Do you believe in Jesus Christ the only begotten son of God? Can God testify that we are truly His children who does his will and keeps his baptismal promises? **Do you remember the day of your baptism?** Lord Jesus, help us to Keep the promises we made on the day of our baptism. Amen.

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

Every **SATURDAY, at 9.30am, St Paul's Church Hall**, and every **SUNDAY, 9.30am, at St Finbarr's Church**. The weekly preparation classes will continue until June 2025, with the exception of half and end of term school holidays. 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.

THE RCIA COURSE will resume on **Monday 13th January** in the Upper Room of the Hall.

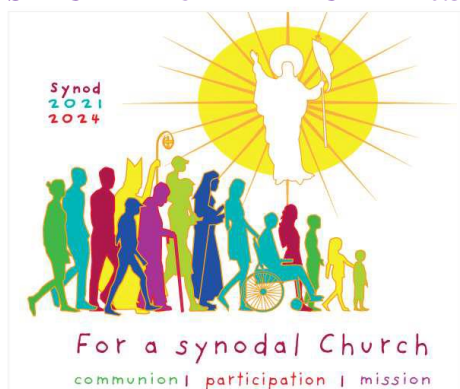
THE ADULT SYCAMORE COURSE AT ST PAUL'S will resume on **Wednesday 15th January**, St Paul's Hall for refreshments at 6.40pm, start at 7pm. All welcome.

ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY. Next pre 10am Mass rosary and post Mass bible study will take place on **Thursday 16th January**. OT Book of Exodus.

YOUTH SYCAMORE RETURNING: We heartily welcome all young people (16-35) to join us as the Sycamore programme resumes for the New Year. No prior experience is needed, please join us starting **6pm Sunday 19th January** in St Paul's Hall.

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

SYNOD STUDY DAY AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH, BURGATE, CANTERBURY
SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 10.30 – 15.30



RECEIVING THE FRUITS OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: A STUDY DAY

WITH RENOWNED CATHOLIC COMMENTATOR AUSTEN IVEREIGH

Author, Biographer of Pope Francis and Synod Delegate

- Hear more about what happened in the Synod Meetings
- Understand Pope Francis's vision of the ongoing synodal dialogue
- A chance to talk frankly and reflect at a local level
- Conversation in the Spirit - what that means for us

Free of Charge – refreshments & light lunch included. Online registration <https://Canterbury-synod-day.eventbrite.co.uk>

Email/phone booking and queries:- Daphne Ellis daphnehellis@aol.com phone 07377 168174

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.

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

LOURDES DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE 2025. Come and find out and ask questions about the Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage which will take place in August 22-28th, 2025. The meeting will take place at St Henry & St Elisabeth Church, 53 Broadway, Sheppey, ME121TS, at 2pm on Saturday, January 25th, 2025, at the kind invitation of Fr Aklilu PP. This jubilee year is the perfect opportunity for us to travel together "on pilgrimage" with Our Lady of Lourdes. Bishop Paul Hendricks and Dcn John Fogarty will have lots of information about the pilgrimage to share with you on the day and we look forward to seeing you there. Please let Dcn John know if you would like to attend or if you would like more information. Dcn John Fogarty, 07851019134 or johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk

CAFOD A YEAR OF HOPE: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development: 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. **Saturday 18 January, 10:30am-midday, online.** All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee Please see <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-2025> for more resources and information around the Jubilee.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (WPCU) 2025: Week's Theme Nicene Creed, Christians Together in Dover.

At each Mass clergy and laity proclaim the Nicene Creed. As the world-wide church celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, YOU are ALL invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27 and Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

A different theme of the Creed will be reflected upon on each week day and led by a representative of an organisation with whom Christians Together in Dover (CTiD) is closely related. The timetable is below and available on the parish website <https://www.parihofthegoodshepherd.uk/events/> Deacon Barry WPCU 2025 Coordinator 07715 546938 barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk

Date and Time	Venue	Theme	Organisation Lead
Monday 20th January 10.30am	St Paul's Church Hall, Dover	Creation as God's Work	Dover Port Chaplaincy
Tuesday 21st January 10.30am	St Paul's Church Hall, Dover	Baptism into the Death & Resurrection of the Lord	Dover Food Bank
Wednesday 22nd January 10.30am	St Paul's Church Hall, Dover	The Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life and Joy	Dover Outreach Centre
Thursday 23rd January 10.30am	St Paul's Church Hall, Dover	The Church: Community of Believers.	Dover Street Pastors
Friday 24th January 10.30am	St Paul's Church Hall, Dover	Waiting for the Kingdom and the Life to Come	Sunrise Café
Sunday 26th January 4.30pm	River Parish Church	Ecumenical Worship Service	Rev Andy Bawtree and Fr Leo River Parish Church

CATECHISM ON PRAYER

What is meditation?

God invites us into a relationship with Him that is both personal and communal. He speaks to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word-made-flesh. Prayer is our response to God who is already speaking or, better yet, revealing Himself to us. Therefore, prayer is not merely an exchange of words, but it engages the whole person in a relationship with God the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.

Meditation is a Christian practice of prayer dating back to the early Church. As the Catechism states: "Meditation is above all a quest. The mind seeks to understand the why and how of the Christian life, in order to adhere and respond to what the Lord is asking." By meditating on the Gospels, holy icons, liturgical texts, spiritual writings, or "the great book of creation," we come to make our own that which is God's. "To the extent that we are humble and faithful, we discover in meditation the movements that stir the heart and we are able to discern them. It is a question of acting truthfully in order to come into the light: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (CCC 2705-2706). Give it a trial in meditation and you will encounter God....

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, 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: Jane Daly, Connie Morrison, Maria Anna Curtis, Robert Anthony Mills, Roy McInerney, Frank Golden, May Wilson.

St Paul's: Frederick Hunt, John Downie, Russell Wills, Bob Tait, Susan Churcher, Ron Stone, Alfred Austin Willson, Myrle Harcourt, Lenny Smith, Bridget Brown, Jane Moyes, Grace Price, Christine MacDougall, June Smither, Margaret Sansum, Elsie Shearn, Bob Broom, Michael Joseph Canning, Victoria Cox, Fr Thomas Connelly, Marie McGeeney, Colin Hay, Josephine Smye-Rumsby, Bernard Moore, Christina O'Reilly, Teresa Maria Morley, Jacqueline Margeson.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
	Saturday 11th January	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Sunday 12th January	9.30am 11.15am	First Holy Communion preparation in the Church Mass for G/E Esiri (Anne & Jeremy)
	Wednesday 15th January	10.15am	Mass for Rev Len Koffer RIP (Anne & Jeremy)
	Saturday 18th January	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 19th January	9.30am 11.15am	First Holy Communion preparation in the Church Mass for Rob Maguire RIP (Anne & Jeremy)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
	Saturday 11th January	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall. Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Sheila & Family (Kath Q) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Agnelo Rodrigues (Inocencia Freitas)
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Sunday 12th January	9.15am 11am 3pm	Mass for Bridie Kearney RIP (Keith & Theresa) Coffee after Mass Mass for G/E Gehad, Annie & Family (Kath Q) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
SAINT HILARY	Monday 13th January	10am	Mass for Quigley Family (Kath Q)
	Tuesday 14th January	10am	Mass for Recovery of Robert Cole (Mary Bassett)
	Wednesday 15th January	10am	Mass for Keith, Theresa & Family (Kath Q)
	Thursday 16th January	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary in the Church Mass for Sadie Clinton & Family (Mary Bassett) Bible Study. OT Book of Exodus.
SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT	Friday 17th January	10am	Mass for Fisher Family (Kath Q)
	Saturday 18th January	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall. Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Pauline Fuller (Mary) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Beatris Alves (Inocencia Freitas)
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 19th January	9.15am 11am 3pm	Mass for Erin Crainie RIP (Mary Bassett) Coffee after Mass Mass for Dec'd Members of the Stone Family 'F' 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 doverse1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's doverse2@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 12TH JANUARY 2025

First reading **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**
'Prepare the way of the Lord.'

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go on up to a high mountain,
O Sion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Behold your God!'

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104(103):1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30. R1

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

My God, how great you are!

1. O Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as with a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

2. On the waters you lay the foundation for your
dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers,
flame and fire your servants.

3. How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

Vast and wide is the span of the sea,
with its creeping things past counting,

4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up;
you open wide your hand, they are well filled.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

5. You hide your face, they are dismayed;

you take away their breath, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, and they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Second reading **Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7**
*'He saved us by the washing of regeneration
and renewal of the Holy Spirit.'*

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation for all people, training us to
renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,
and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly
lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed
hope, the appearing of the glory of our great
God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave
himself for us to redeem us from all
lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people
for his own possession who are zealous for
good works.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of
God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not
because of works done by us in righteousness,
but according to his own mercy, by the washing
of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus
Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his
grace we might become heirs according to the
hope of eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation **Cf. Luke 3:16**
Alleluia, alleluia.

**He who is mightier than I is coming, said
John.**

**He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and
fire.**

Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

*'When Jesus had been baptised and was
praying, the heavens were opened.'*

At that time: 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.'

Now when all the people were baptised by
John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been
baptised and was praying, the heavens were
opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him
in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came
from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with
you I am well pleased.'

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.**