



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/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsavle7499/streams>

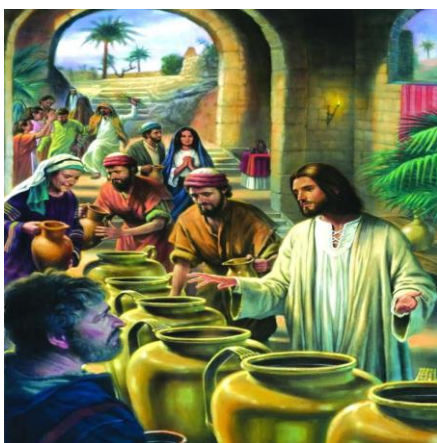
The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 19th January 2025. Year C – Missal Pg. 841
Order of the Mass-Missal Pg. 470

PRIEST CORNER: At our Parish of the Good Shepherd, we are now evaluating our Church from 2024 and welcoming suggestions and feedbacks from our Parishioners to help us as we are redefining our Parish vision and focus for 2025. I have invited about 35 parishioners from both Churches who will be meeting at St. Paul's Church Hall on Saturday the 25th of January to discuss and share about our Church. How do you feel in our Church? Do you feel welcomed? What was your most appreciated activity in our Church last year? What would you like to see improve in our Parish for 2025?

If you have any suggestions or points you want us to consider, please send a note to me at leoillah@rcaos.org.uk or to the Parish secretary at dover@rcaos.org.uk, or to the Pastoral Council lead, Malcom Fisher at malcermie@fastmail.fm. If you are from St. Finbarr's, you could send suggestions to Carina Jarvie at carinamjarvie@aol.com or to Anne Rowe at mrsannerowe@btinternet.com who is a member of the Pastoral Council. Our vision for 2025 will be centered on Faith Formation – Mission, Community and Worship. We will also look into projects for both our Churches in 2025. Ultimately, I ask everyone to pray for our Church, may the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek to grow together in love. A booklet will be handed to you after Mass this weekend, make use of the questions to reflect on our Parish. Thank you for all you do for our Parish. God bless. Fr. Leo

GOSPEL REFLECTION: GOD CAN SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM (JOHN 2.1-11)

Today's gospel is centred on the first miracle of Jesus Christ at the wedding in Cana and the intercessory role played by our Blessed Virgin Mary. Although it was not yet time for him to commence his public ministry, Christ generously accepted to help out with his gift of miracle by turning water into wine. Through this, Christ taught us exactly how we should use our gifts for the good and growth of the people of God. In life, we sometimes run out of wine when we see darkness instead of light, when life gives us several reasons to give up because of the challenges around us. We run out of wine when things seem to be falling apart starting from our families to other areas of our lives. We are admonished to emulate both the example of Christ and Mary who used their gifts for the growth and edification of the people of God. We must constantly ask Our Lady for intercession and must be ready to take her advice: "Do whatever He tells you to do!" just as those at the wedding did. May we invite Jesus and Mary to remain with us in our homes when we feel shortages in our family lives.



NEXT WEEKEND THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION FOR LEPROA.

Today 500 people will be diagnosed with leprosy, more than 28 of these will be children. Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life-changing disabilities and even blindness. But it is curable! To read some real-life stories of some of the beneficiaries whose lives have been changed through the work of Lepra, please visit www.lepra.org.uk. With your help we can find, diagnose and treat more people affected by leprosy so that they will have a brighter future, full of hope. If you would like further information, please contact LauriceJ@lepra.org.uk



Archdiocese of Southwark. Pastoral Letter on Called to Bear Fruit

Saturday 18 / Sunday 19 January 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Jubilee Year calls us to remember that we journey together as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ who look to Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. At the wedding in Cana, Our Lady spoke words that are addressed to us today: ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ (Jn 2:5) Trusting in the Good News brought to us by the Lord Jesus we are encouraged to look to the future with confidence. God keeps his promises and can make all things new. Therefore, we place our hope in God’s Word. He asks us to be ‘tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.’ This means we each have a part to play in building up the Church’s life of faith and fulfilling the Great Commission to ‘make disciples of all nations.’ (Mt 28:19)

The Jubilee Year offers each of us, and all of us, a profound opportunity to reflect prayerfully on the future of our Archdiocese. We face some significant challenges - nearly half of our diocesan priests will reach the canonical retirement age of 75 by the end of 2025; Mass attendance has declined by a third over the past 25 years; and many parishioners have yet to return to parish life since the pandemic. But – and importantly - these realities do not need to define us. Financial uncertainties in many of our parishes may feel daunting, but they are also an invitation to rediscover our mission, and to dream boldly about what God can achieve through us.

Pope Francis, in his letter *The Joy of the Gospel*, shared a vision that resonates deeply with the challenges we face: “I dream,” he said “of a ‘missionary option,’ that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language, and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 27).



I have the privilege to serve as your Archbishop, and I want to say to you that I share this dream. A dream of an Archdiocese where every parish embraces this missionary spirit, becoming ever more vibrant communities where new people are continually encountering the Lord Jesus. My hope is for our parishes to be places of profound joy and healing, where lay men and women experience the transformative love of Christ; where they are equipped to carry forward the Church’s mission with renewed purpose. I invite you to dream with me and to make this dream a reality.

In 2023, we embarked on a process entitled *Called to Bear Fruit*. It’s a journey of listening, collaboration, and renewal in a spirit of synodality. We began by listening to the hopes and concerns of our clergy. Now, I would like also to hear from you, my sisters, and brothers in Christ. What signs of vitality do you see flourishing in your parish? Where do you perceive the challenges to be? How can we work together, as clergy, laity and consecrated people, and neighbouring parishes, to make the Church’s mission more effective in our local communities?

Today, I would like to ask for your help in two ways:

First of all, please pray for the renewal of our Archdiocese. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to illumine our hearts and minds with fresh possibilities during this Jubilee Year of Hope. Together, let us pray for the courage and wisdom to discern the path ahead.

Secondly, to engage in the *Called to Bear Fruit* consultation. A booklet is available at Mass today which outlines six key themes for reflection. I encourage you to gather in small groups, as works best in your community. Come together prayerfully to reflect on these themes and share your insights with the *Called to Bear Fruit* team. The booklet explains everything about how to do this.

When I began my ministry as your Archbishop, I said that I did not come to the Archdiocese to manage decline, but to lead with hope. This Jubilee Year of Hope is our chance to open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to work together towards a revival of Christian life, witness, and mission in our Archdiocese. For this, I humbly ask for your prayers, your ideas, and your active participation. Together, we can re-imagine our parishes as thriving centres of faith, healing, and evangelisation. As Pilgrims of Hope, therefore, let us walk this journey together with faith, courage, and joy. With every blessing and with the assurance of my prayers and gratitude.

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John Wilson Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

DEATH OF TONY NEVE: Tony who usually attends Mass every Saturday night regularly, has died last Friday, January 10th 2025. We pray for his close family, Mark and Karl and his close friend Oliver O’Connor. His funeral date to follow soon. May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

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

Please note that the admittance to the FHC Programme 2025 has now closed as from Saturday 18th January. I’m delighted to let everyone know we have 20 children who are now being prepared at St Pauls and 4 children at St Finbarr’s. All the children, from both churches, will make their FHC on Sunday 22nd June, The Feast of Corpus Christi. Recruitment to the FHC Programme 2026 for both churches begins in December 2025. Deacon Barry and Carine Jarvie.

ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S. Due to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there is **No** bible study this week. The next bible study will take place on **Thursday 30th January** following the 10am Mass.

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 this 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 (NOT 23rd Jan) 9.30am & 10.30am	St Paul's, Dover
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
Adult SYCAMORE Course	Every Wednesday 7pm	St Paul's, Dover
SYCAMORE Course for Young Adults	Every Sunday 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Monday 20th January 2pm	St Paul's, Dover
St Paul's Junior Youth Group	Sunday 26th January, after the 11am Mass - 12:15pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover

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. 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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (WPCU) 2025:

Week's Theme Nicene Creed, Christians Together in Dover.

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 Jamie River Parish Church

Please Pray for those who are unwell:

St Finbarr's: Audrey Stitt, 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: John Leach, Mary McIntyre, Catherine Alice Lorne, Bernard William Jenkins, Jane Charlotte Sabine, Odile Tyson, Robert Maguire, John Quinn, Kathleen Mountford, Pat Yore, Ann Kathleen Brown, Rene Viner, Michael James Humphreys, Michael Dobson, Rob Maguire, James (Paddy) Cooney, Elizabeth Maud Gunson.

St Paul's: Leslie Ross MacNab, Anne Marie McDonald, Peter Henneker, Margaret (Peggy) Eileen Kirby, Helena Pal, Frank Taylor, Annie Holdstock, Maria Gray, William Doolin, Maureen Shaw, Joan D'Eath, William James Huntley, Nuala Pullen, Ted Belsey, Kitty Casey, Mabel O'Neill, Arthur Griffiths, Patricia Monger, Dorothy Moore, Anna Louise Taylor.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
	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) Mass for Trish Dennis - Dinner Lady at St Joseph's School RIP
SAINT VINCENT	Wednesday 22nd January	10.15am	Mass for Hugh Sullivan RIP (Anne & Jeremy)
THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	Saturday 25th January	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 26th January	9.30am 11.15am	First Holy Communion preparation in the Church Mass for Canon Jeremiah Cronin RIP (Anne & Jeremy)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT PAUL'S			
	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
SAINT FABIAN	Monday 20th January	10am 2pm 7pm	Mass for Recovery of Ann Marie Cole (Mary Bassett) St Jude's Prayer Group in the Hall The RCIA course in the Upper Hall
SAINT AGNES	Tuesday 21st January	10am	Mass for Mary, Countess de Front 'F'
SAINT VINCENT	Wednesday 22nd January	10am 7pm	Mass for James Alexander Farrell 'F' The Adult Sycamore Course
	Thursday 23rd January	9.30am 10am	Holy Rosary in the Church Mass for Mary Ann Richer 'F' NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK
SAINT FRANCES DE SALES	Friday 24th January	10am	Mass for G/E of Father Jeff (Lizzie)
THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	Saturday 25th January	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall. Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Holy Souls Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Rev Thomas Connelly 'F'
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 26th January	9.15am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Pam Boxall RIP (Tim) Coffee after Mass Mass for G/E of Maureen Clunas Followed by Junior Youth Group in the Hall at 12.15pm Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Sycamore Course for Young Adults

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's avleshams2@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: dovertnewsletter@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

