



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](mailto:leoillah@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Asst: Fr Godwin Alkali CSSp 01304 206766 [godwinalkali@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:godwinalkali@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Asst: Fr Jamie Houghton 07955 242324 [jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Deacon Barry Barton: 07715 546938 [barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Parish Secretary: 07936 573155 [dover@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dover@rcaos.org.uk)  
 St Finbarr's: [aylesham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aylesham@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Dover SVP Conference: 07596 544109  
 Parish website: [www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk](http://www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk)  
 Parish Giving: [www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/](http://www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/)  
 St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: [www.churchservices.tv/dover](http://www.churchservices.tv/dover)  
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsavle7499/streams>



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year C**  
**SUNDAY 30th MARCH 2025**  
**Missal P174, Order of the Mass P470**  
**HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY TO ALL OUR**  
**MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS**



**HAPPY 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO OUR PARISH SECRETARY; MARY SMYE-RUMSBY:** On behalf of the entire Parish family, I wish to sincerely congratulate our Parish Secretary, Mary. Your life has been a great source of blessing to our Parish. We are grateful for all the sacrifices you make towards your ministry in the Parish. May the Lord bless and uphold you with Many more amazing and joyful years. Happy Birthday. Fr. Leo for the Parish.

**PRIEST CORNER:** I would like to welcome back Fr. Jeff who is with us at this weekend to celebrate the birthday of Mary with us. We are happy to welcome you dear Fr. Jeff. Let us share this special moment together with Mary. Welcome. On behalf of the Clergy, I would like to say happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers and grand Mothers who keep making holding the families together. May the Lord continue to bless you all. Very Best wishes. Fr. Leo

**GOSPEL REFLECTION: THE PRODIGAL SON: (LUKE 15).** Today's Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "homecoming" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the joy of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honour, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God. At the same time, in his self-righteous elder brother's angry reaction to the prodigal's



return, Jesus invites us to avoid self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant younger brother. Let us admit the truth that we are an assembly of repentant, sinful people, who are now ready to receive God's forgiveness, to experience Jesus' Personal Presence in the Holy Eucharist as our loving and forgiving God and so to love and forgive each other making, generous and lasting peace. Let us return to

our Heavenly Father with repentant hearts: As prodigal children, we face spiritual famine all around us in the form of drug and alcohol abuse, fraud and theft in the workplace, murders, abortions and violence, pornography, premarital sex, marital infidelity, and priestly infidelity, as well as in hostility between and among people. All of these evils have proliferated because we have been squandering God's abundant blessings, not only in our country and in our families, but also in our personal lives. Hence, let us repent and return to our Heavenly Father's home. Lord Jesus, stay with us on our journey. Amen.

**ST RICHARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** had their Catholic School's Inspection recently. The report has now been published. Go to <https://www.st-richards.kent.sch.uk/catholic-schools-inspection/> to view.

**NEXT WEEKEND** there will be a second collection for **Easter Flowers**.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Jane Francis from St Paul's who has passed away. Jane's Requiem Mass will take place on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 12noon at St Paul's** followed by committal at St James' Cemetery, Dover. Please also pray for Keith Armstrong, husband of Abina, who has died. Keith's funeral service will take place in St Paul's on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm** followed by committal at Hamilton Road Cemetery, Deal at 2.15pm. Also, please pray for Anthony Grilli, former teacher at St Edmund's School, Dover, and Johnny Vercammen who have passed away. Johnny's funeral service will take place at St Paul's on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm**. Anthony's funeral service will take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 11am** at St Andrews Church Shepherdswell. May Jane, Keith, Anthony and Johnny Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory, Amen.

**LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER'S TRAINING FOR THE PARISH:** On **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 7pm**, we shall be hosting a renewal training program for the Lay Eucharistic Ministers. This training is combined for both Churches at St. Paul's. A speaker from the Agency for Evangelization will come from London to lead this training. I wish to encourage all our Lay Ministers to please attend this session, especially if you want to still continue in this role. Fr. Leo.

**ST PAUL'S JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP** will meet next **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April in the parish hall 2pm-4pm**. Please join us for the children's Way of the Cross, Arts & Crafts, Singing & Games.

**ST PAUL'S PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH & THEIR FAMILIES.** **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 12pm-2pm** (After 11am Mass) Please join us for lunch to celebrate Palm Sunday & prepare for Holy Week. There will be songs, crafts & games with prizes to be won! We hope you can make it. Any questions please speak to George, Maeve or Laura.

**EASTER EGG DONATIONS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH.** We are hoping to give out Easter eggs to the children of the Parish. If there are any parishioners who would like to donate some eggs, please bring them the next two weeks and give them to George or Laura. Many thanks.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE / CONFESSIONS FOR LENT:** Our reconciliation / penitential services and confessions will come up during the Holy Week. This year, the services will be led by Father Giovanni Prandini who is the assistant Parish Priest in Canterbury. It comprises of some short reflections, prayers and confessions / Sacrament of Penance. **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 6pm (St Paul's)** and **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 6pm (St Finbarr's)**. This is necessary at the time of Lent and I encourage all to take this opportunity of Lenten blessing.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION AT ST PAUL'S:** **Saturdays in the upper room of the parish hall from 10am to 11am.** If your child is 12 years and above, kindly email the Parish Office [dover@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dover@rcaos.org.uk) to enrol your child. The Bishop will lead the confirmation ceremony in the Autumn.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE - FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> to MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER:**

**This is now confirmed.** Cost for 3 nights half board accommodation £485 per person based on 2 people sharing (plus £60 single supplement). Estimated flight costs £320 per person. Book early to avoid flight supplement. Deposit £300 per person. Balance 10 weeks prior to departure. For a booking form and further information please contact Mary in the parish office, email [dover@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dover@rcaos.org.uk) or message 07936 573155. God bless, Fr Leo.

**ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY ST PAUL'S** Next Thursday's pre 10am Mass rosary and post Mass bible study will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. OT Book of Exodus.

**ST PAUL'S REPOSITORY.** Easter, Mother's Day, St. Patrick's, Birthday, Sympathy Cards and many others are on sale in the Church Hall after the 9:15 a.m. Sunday Mass each week, also rosaries and Holy Water bottles.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)** would like to invite the parishioners to afternoon tea on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April in the Parish Hall at 3pm**. Please come and find out about your SVP and what they have achieved.

**MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SOUTHWARK.** If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: **your names** in the format John and Mary Smith, **your home address**, your **parish**, and the **anniversary you are celebrating**, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact Carole at [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk). As the **title of your email, please write your parish location** e.g. Dover, Aylesham.

**ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE CELEBRATION DAY AT THE FRIARS AYLESFORD 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025:**

Led by Archbishop John Wilson, we will gather as an Archdiocese at The Friars, Aylesford for a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. **If you would like to go please let Mary in the parish office know, email [dover@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dover@rcaos.org.uk) or message 07936 573155. We only have two people who have indicated interest so far. To make a coach viable we need more people. God bless, Fr Leo.**

**JUBILEE RETREAT AND HEALING SERVICE:** You are invited to attend the Jubilee Retreat and healing service led by Fr. Rozo Palic. It will be held at the Tyburn Convent on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 11am to 5pm and on Thursday and Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April at Our lady of the Visitation Church, Greenford. Contact Brendo: 0757-850-4407.

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal		
	March/April 2025	
Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy	Every Third Sunday 9.15am	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Saturday 9.30am (Final Session 29 <sup>th</sup> March – restart 26 <sup>th</sup> April)	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Sunday 9.30am (Final session 30 <sup>th</sup> March – restart 27 <sup>th</sup> April)	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
RCIA Course	Every Monday 7pm (Final session 31 <sup>st</sup> March)	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Adult SYCAMORE Course	Every Wednesday 7pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
SYCAMORE Course for Young Adults	Every Sunday 6pm (Final Session 16 <sup>th</sup> April)	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Stations of the Cross	Every Friday during Lent 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
Stations of the Cross	Every Sunday during Lent 10.30am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
SYCAMORE Course, Fides & Bible Study, all combined session	Every Tuesday 7pm	St. Finbarr's, Aylesham.
Confirmation Preparation	Every Saturday 10am	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Lay Eucharistic Minister Training	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 7pm (Combined St Paul's & St Finbarr's) Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm (St Paul's) Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm (St Finbarr's)	St Paul's, Dover St Paul's, Dover St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Junior Youth Group Meeting	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Tea	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 3pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Palm Sunday Celebration for the Children & their Families	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 12noon	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Lenten Penitential Service	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 6pm (St Paul's) Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 6pm (St Finbarr's)	St Paul's, Dover St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Easter Choir practice	Monday 7pm	St. Paul's Dover St. Finbarr's Aylesham

### CATECHISM-THE SEASON OF LENT:

Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. (Pope Benedict XVI).

“Even if I had committed all the sins of the world, I would throw myself into Jesus’ arms, for I know how much He loves the prodigal Child”. (St. Thérèse of Lisieux). *She had a deep trust in God's mercy, mirroring the father in the Parable.*

#### Please Pray for those who are unwell:

**St Finbarr's:** Audrey Stitt, 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:** Maria Frost, Roz & Rob Pain, Rosa Mazzitelli, David Meadows, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Chris Quinn, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, 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:** Owen McCallum, Carl Bramwell, Michael McCallum, Emma Snodgrass, Carrick Armstrong, Betty Yore, Rose Cambell, Geoffrey McBride, Charlie Williams, Lawrence Knight.

**St Paul's:** Arthur Freed, Canon Grady, Elizabeth Spray, Caroline Van Oss, Clara Borrello, Norman Revell, John Squirrel, Canon William O'Riordan, Rose Campbell, Sylvia Winifred Sandford, Marie-Louise Jones, Ken Atmore, Charles Heyes, Winifred Roy, Albert John Newhan, Sidney Stephen Cole, Annie Josephine Milner, Pauline Coulter, Maureen Collins, Dorothy McMillan, Elizabeth Mary Evans, Arthur Cloke, Elsie Eliza Versey, Mary Ann Donald.

#### PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's [ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Keith Wells for St Paul's [doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's [doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the Editor: [dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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

<b>EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S</b>			
	<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>4pm</b>	Syro Malabar Mass
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>	<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.30am 10.30am 11.15am</b>	First Holy Communion preparation in the Church Stations of the Cross Mass for Carl Bramwell RIP (Bramwell Family)
<b>Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit</b>	<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>7pm</b>	SYCAMORE Course Fides & Bible Study Combined
	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>10.15am</b>	Mass for Sick Parishioners
<b>Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest</b>	<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>4pm</b>	Syro Malabar Mass
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.30am 11.15am</b>	NO First Holy Communion preparation (restart 27 <sup>th</sup> April) Stations of the Cross Mass for Liz & Fran RIP (Bett)
<b>EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S</b>			
	<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 10am 2pm 5pm 6pm</b>	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall. Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Veronika & Ivo (Tim) Confirmation preparation in the Church Funeral Service for Johnny Vercammen Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for G/E Tim (Kath Quigley)
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>	<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.15am 11am 3pm 6pm</b>	Mass for Keith, Theresa & Family (Kath Quigley) Coffee after Mass Mass In Birthday Thanksgiving for Mary Smye-Rumsby (Parish) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Sycamore Course for Young Adults
	<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>10am 7pm</b>	Mass for Jane Francis RIP (Ronnie Mitchinson) RCIA course in the upper hall (Final Session)
	<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>10am 7pm</b>	Mass for G/E Anne Holiday (Sheila) Lay Eucharistic Ministers' Training from Both churches Pt 1
<b>Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>10am 5.30pm 7pm</b>	Mass for Josef Toth Exposition and Holy Rosary (to 6.30pm) Adult Sycamore Course in the hall
	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 10.30am</b>	Holy Rosary in the church Ordinarate Mass for Catherine O'Brien 'F' Bible Study in the hall OT Book of Exodus
<b>Saint Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</b>	<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10am 1pm 6pm</b>	Mass for Jane Francis RIP (Robert MacKenzie) Funeral Service for Keith Armstrong Stations of the Cross
<b>Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest</b>	<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10am 2pm 5pm 6pm</b>	NO First Holy Communion preparation (restart 26 <sup>th</sup> April) Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Veronika & Ivo (Tim) Junior Youth Group meeting in the hall Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Family of John David (Joanne & David)
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9.15am 11am 3pm 3pm 6pm</b>	Mass for G/E Maureen McCue (Lizzie) Coffee after Mass Mass for Jean MacKenzie RIP (Robert) SVP Tea in the Hall Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Sycamore Course for Young Adults

# READINGS FOR SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2025

## First reading

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

*The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover.*

In those days: The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R cf. 18b

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
praise of him is always in my mouth.

In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;  
the humble shall hear and be glad.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

Glorify the Lord with me;

together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

This lowly one called; the Lord heard,  
and rescued him from all his distress.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

## Second reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*'God who through Christ reconciled us to himself.'*

Brothers and Sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Gospel Acclamation Luke 15:18

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,**

**'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'.**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

## Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

*'Your brother was dead, and is alive.'*

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.'

‘But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’ ”

‘And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.” But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!” And he said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.” ’

**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.**