



## St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

25th January 2026

### The Conversion of St Paul (The Third Sunday of Epiphany)

*A warm welcome to St Mary's,  
especially if this is your first time here.*

*Please stay for refreshments in the hall after the Sung Eucharist*

#### TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1 vv 4-10 *The words God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah when he called him seem particularly appropriate to St Paul.*

New Testament Reading: Acts 9 vv 1-22 *The miraculous conversion of Saul the persecutor was a turning point in the history of the early Church.*

Gospel: Matthew 19 vv 27-30 *Jesus' explanation of the cost of discipleship was fully experienced by St Paul, a man who renounced his place in Jewish intellectual society and his right to life itself.*

**Hymns:** 146, 154, 376, 294, 486

5.00pm **EVENSONG** **Hymns:** 49, 484, 244

*Our flowers this week have been arranged by Pearl Shepherd  
and donated by Chris Ruge-Cope in memory of her father*

#### **The Week Ahead**

**Tuesday** 9.30am Morning Prayer  
12 noon Knit & Natter Group meets in choir vestry  
5.00pm Evening Prayer

**Wednesday** **St Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher  
& teacher of the faith**

9.30am Said Eucharist  
*Celebrant: Fr Tom Baron*

10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors  
5.00pm Evening Prayer

**Thursday** 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)  
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors  
5.00pm Evening Prayer

**Friday** **King Charles the Martyr**  
9.30am Morning Prayer  
5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

**Next Sunday** is the **Feast of the Presentation of Christ  
in the Temple (CANDLEMAS)**

8.00am Said Eucharist  
10.00am **FAMILY EUCHARIST**

Next Sunday's readings will be: Malachi 3 vv 1-5;  
Hebrews 2 vv 14-18 and Luke 2 vv 22-40.

## **Parish Notices**

While Fr Stefan is on leave, it is a great pleasure to welcome the **Revd Alec Corio**, Rector of St Mary's, East Barnet, to celebrate and preach at our 8.00am Eucharist, and the **Revd Rachel Phillips** to celebrate and preach at our 10.00am Sung Eucharist. Rachel was Parish Priest of Northaw and Cuffley from 2010-2017.

The next lunchtime recital will be on **Tuesday 3rd February** at 12.30pm when we shall be joined by Tom Jesty and Lucy Cox (piano & soprano). Lunches will be served before and after the recital.

The Friendship Group will meet on **Monday 9th February** at 10.30am at the Oakmere Tea Rooms. All welcome.

Once again this year, we shall enjoy a **pre-Lent lunch** in the hall on **Sunday 15th February** from 12 noon. Graham and Aoy Jones (Julia's parents) have again kindly offered to provide a lunch of Thai food for us. **Please sign the list on the noticeboard** if you want to come. A donation towards the lunch (**£10 minimum**) is requested; proceeds will be shared between St Mary's and our Lent charity. Please give your donation to either **Richard, Jenny Pearce** or **Liz Nethercott**. There will be wine and soft drinks available with the lunch but you can also bring your own drinks if you wish.

**Lent** will soon be here! **Ash Wednesday** is **18th February**. There will be a Eucharist with imposition of ashes here at **10.00am**. In the evening, we shall again join with other churches in the town for an ecumenical non-eucharistic service at Our Lady & St Vincent Church at **7.30pm**.

**Watchers and Welcomers** Please let Heather Hawkes know about holiday dates in March and April.

#### **For your prayers**

**The sick** Anna Downes, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Joan Golden, Carlos Perez, Lisa Collins, Linda, Daren Elis, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Lindsey Lyons, Steven Seal

**We also pray for** Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ricky Mella, Sasha Burt, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert, Prussia Blake, Charlotte

**The recently departed** Leslie Britton, Theresa Wager, Terry Pickering

**Those whose anniversary of death falls this week** Eileen Field, Peter Baker, James Watson, Constance Clarke, Peter Dyer, Janet Brewer, Valerie Meddes

**Our parish** We remember those who live in Raymond Court, Richmond Court and Richmond Road

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Our livestreamed services are available at:  
[www.facebook.com/stmaryspb](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryspb)



### COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant  
Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful  
conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your  
truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING

Either **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.*

The word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Or **Acts 9:1-22**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see

nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptised, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

### PSALM Psalm 67

**R** *Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.*

God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
That your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations. **R**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.  
Then shall the earth bring forth her  
increase,

and God, our own God, will bless us.  
God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear  
him. **R**

### SECOND READING Either **Acts 9:1-22**

Or **Galatians 1:11-16a**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.*

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being.

### GOSPEL **Matthew 19:27-end**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

Peter said to Jesus: "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

### POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues  
of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to  
preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your  
love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

