



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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Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**

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Our livestreamed services are available at:

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.

