

Conversion of St Paul

Reserved Sacrament

25th January 2026



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.

Contact details

Priest in Charge Rev Alex French revajwfrench@gmail.com 07508564392

Safeguarding Officer Mrs S Odedina-Barton sholaodedina58@gmail.com

If you would like to receive these notices electronically, please email Rev Alex.

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Pauline

⁴ The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

⁷ But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

⁹ Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Acts 9: 1-22 **Jacqui**

⁹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

¹³ “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Matthew 19: 27-end

Phil

²⁷ Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Hymns

Complete Anglican; Hymns Old and New

		<u>Number</u>
Processional	Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour	408
Kyrie		962
Gloria		Murray
Gradual	Lift high the cross	394
Offertory	O Jesus, I have promised	503
Communion	Rock of ages	584
Recessional	Be thou my vision	70

Notices

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer who is **Mrs Shola Odedina-Barton**. See the front of the Contact Sheet for her contact email address. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on **0121 426 0407** or email StephH@cofebirmingham.com if you have any concerns.

Fire escape

In case there is a need to evacuate church, please make yourself familiar with the fire exit routes before the service starts.

Compline

There will be a service of Compline on Wednesday the 28th January 2026, the Zoom link for which are

Meeting ID: 848 0981 2495

Passcode: 464983

Jumble sale @ St Benedict's

St Benedict's are planning a jumble sale in March. If you have any jumble at home, please let Fr Alex have it.

Tidy up

We need to tidy up the scullery and sacristy, being clinical regarding the stuff we through away. If you are able to offer any help, please let Jeanne or Phil know and we'll coordinate at time to get it back into a pristine state.

Swan group Candlemas service

At 4pm on Sunday 1st February there will be a Swan Group service for Candlemas at St Mary's church, Acocks Green.

Ash Wednesday

There will be a service in church at 10am on Wednesday 18th February.

Prayers

Saint Cyprian's church

Hear our gratitude gracious Lord for the repair works undertaken by NC Contractors after the recent break in. Help us to ensure that the Memorial Hall becomes a well-used and precious community asset.

Saint Michael & All Angels church

Facilitate loving Lord the kitchen design plans. May the decisions that we make facilitate a space which adds value to those external groups who look to use the hall.

St Benedict's church

Inspire our thinking and focus our planning around our first Jumble Sale in such a long time, Lord. Help us to know what to do, particularly around getting those who we serve in Bordesley into church.

Saint Mary's church

As we reach the end of January, continue to protect your followers from the extremes of weather, as they move around in their daily lives. Turn our faces towards the coming of spring, as the flowers start to burst forth and bird song fills the air around us.

Prayers at St Cyprian's church

We pray for all those who are in need at this time, for

Ollie, Beryl, Harold, Maureen, Andy Newman, Kevin, Lauren, Paul, Ken Long, Alan Carter and Pat.

We remember those who have died in faith... Phyllis Macken, Lillian, Clarice Allen and for those whose years mind is in January ... Harry Saunders, Simon Ward, Alice Orme, Madge Burton, Emme Wright, Beverley Huxtable, Joyce Hulley, John Ellison, Ivy Loxton