

Conversion of Saint Paul

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. **Amen.**

First Reading (Acts 26.9-21)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
'Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do
many things against the name of Jesus of
Nazareth.* And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with
authority received from the chief priests, I not only
locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast
my vote against them when they were being
condemned to death. By punishing them often in all
the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme;
and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I
pursued them even to foreign cities.
'With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with
the authority and commission of the chief
priests, when at midday along the road, your
Excellency,* I saw a light from heaven, brighter than
the sun, shining around me and my
companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I
heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language,
"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts
you to kick against the goads." I asked, "Who are
you, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom

you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your
feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to
appoint you to serve and testify to the things in
which you have seen me* and to those in which I
will appear to you. I will rescue you from your
people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am
sending you to open their eyes so that they may
turn from darkness to light and from the power of
Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness
of sins and a place among those who are sanctified
by faith in me."

'After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to
the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in
Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the
countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that
they should repent and turn to God and do deeds
consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews
seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.'

Psalm (Psalm 67)



Response: O God be gracious and bless us.

God, be gracious and bless us
And let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth,
And all nations learn your saving help. **R**

Let the nations be glad and exult
For you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
You guide the nations on earth. **R**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
Till the ends of the earth revere him. **R**

Second Reading (Galatians 1.11-24)

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians.
For 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, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, 'The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.' And they glorified God because of me.

The Gospel (Matthew 10.16-22)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

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. **Amen**

For your prayers

In our Prayers: Tommy Lacken, Martin Fletcher, Terry Folan, Sheila Hoppenbrouwers, Eamon Irvine, Fr Michael Shier, Carol Martin, Philomena Sorrenti, Maggie Stevenson, Hope Oram, Sherry Lacken, Doug Williams, Neville Thomas, Lynn Williamson, Juan Carlos Mandich, Nancy Mandich, Eliane Ferreira Batista, Joanne Dack, Jaqueline Ives, Joan Rivellini, Tommy Naylor, Albert Kwasi Kkwateng, Lenny Shaw, baby Maison, Stephen Green, Sue Bloom

Among the departed:

Anniversaries of Death: Annie Young, William George Clarke, Annie Whitehead, Caroline Wainwright Mary Johnson Jack Holt Henry Howell (Pr), Lawrence Edgar Snow James Jolly

In our parish: We pray for Peerless Street, Baldwin Street and the Richard Desmond Children's Eye Hospital

In the wider world: We pray for the Middle East and a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Gaza and between Israel and Iran. We pray for all those suffering in those conflicts.

Notices

This week in church...

Wednesday Open Church: 10am-1pm
12.30pm Mass

Next Sunday Candlemas
Family Mass 10.30am

St Clement's Shopping Basket

The basket provides the chance week by week to donate to a collection of dried and tinned food and toiletries which can be passed directly to the **Dunloe Centre at St Saviour's Priory** which works with the homeless and the very poor in our part of London. Please give what you can.

Parish Giving

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an established service for managing One-Off donations and Direct Debit giving to St Clement's. It is free and reduces the burden of work on church volunteers and provides a simple and secure service to givers. For more information speak to Emke or Father David or go to

[www.https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/](https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/)

Can you help?

Please speak to Sherry in you'd like to help set up for the service and with the refreshments or clear away on Sundays. We're looking for volunteers to help share out these jobs.