

# 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, Jacqueline Ives, Joan Rivellini, Tommy Naylor, Albert Kwasi Kwateng, 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.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.