



St Paul's Presbytery 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU  
 St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ  
 Parish Priest: Fr Leo Illah CSSp 01304 206766, [leoillah@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:leoillah@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Asst: Fr Godwin Alkali CSSp 01304 206766 [godwinalkali@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:godwinalkali@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Asst: Fr Jamie Houghton 07955 242324 [jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:jameshoughton@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Deacon Barry Barton: 07715 546938 [barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Parish Secretary: 07936 573155 [dover@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dover@rcaos.org.uk)  
 St Finbarr's: [aylesham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aylesham@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Dover SVP Conference: 07596 544109  
 Parish website: [www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk](http://www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk)  
 Parish Giving: [www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/](http://www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/)  
 St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: [www.churchservices.tv/dover](http://www.churchservices.tv/dover)  
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C - 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025

### Missal **P396** Order of the Mass **P470**

#### PROCESSION FOR MARY 10AM TODAY AT ST FINBARR'S CHURCH

**PRIEST CORNER:** I wish to sincerely thank all those who joined us last Saturday for the cleaning of the Church and the Parish Garden. I am very thankful. It was such a lovely time, cleaning together with a great weather. The next cleaning is scheduled at St. Finbarr's on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. I am looking forward to having many people come along. Expect the date for the second cleaning event at St. Paul's once the skip is ready to be filled. Thank you and God bless.



**MARIAN PROCESSION AT ST. PAUL'S:** Last Sunday was beautiful as we prayed the rosary and sang with the procession around our streets in Dover. I want to sincerely appreciate all those who were able to join this yearly event for the month of May. The Rosary Procession will take place at St. Finbarr's on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. See the details on this newsletter and do join us if you can. May our blessed Mother intercede for our Parish and our families. Amen.

#### GOSPEL REFLECTION: THE NEW COMMANDMENT- LOVE. (Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35)

"Little children love one another:" St. Jerome relates of the apostle John that when he became old, he used to be carried to the assembled Churches, everywhere repeating the words, "*Little children, love one another.*" His disciples, wearied by the constant repetition, asked him why he always said this. "*Because,*" he replied, "*it is the Lord's commandment, and if it only be fulfilled, it is enough.*"

In today's Gospel which is part of the farewell discourse, Jesus gives his followers a *new commandment*: they must love one another as he has loved them. They would be known, not by the sign of the fish or even of the cross, but by their mutual love, the fruit of their conversion. Just as Solomon, in the story of the disputed child, was able to discern the identity of the true mother by her love, so will the world be able to identify the true disciples of Jesus by their love for one another. The command of Jesus is both new and old. It repeats the precept of the Old Testament, "*You shall love your neighbour as you love yourself*" (Lv 19:18). But the command of Jesus is "*You shall love your neighbour as I have loved you.*" What is new is that this love characterizes the new life inaugurated by Jesus and is proof of one's love for God (1 Jn. 4:7). Jesus' new commandment calls for love without limits, conditions, or prerequisites. This love opens our eyes to facts that we might otherwise overlook — that the poor in the world belong to our family; that those who live in despair may be saved by God through our care of them; that God's peace can come to the world through our efforts as we pray and work with Him.



**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2025:** Archbishop John Wilson has issued a pastoral letter. In his letter, Archbishop John said “Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. Each of us — clergy, volunteers, parents, parishioners — is called to remain vigilant, informed, and committed to the well-being of every member of our community”. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday, including accessing the full pastoral letter, at <https://rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday25> or via the QR code.



**MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN’S LITURGY:** This **Sunday at the 9am Mass** at St Paul’s.

**YOUNG ADULTS SYCAMORE COURSE:** Final Session this **Sunday 18th May 6pm** in St Paul’s Upper Hall.

**ST. JUDE’S PRAYER GROUP:** The next meeting will be **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm** in St Paul’s Hall. All welcome.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Gráinne Parsons, headteacher of St Edmund’s school in Dover, who has been named **Headteacher of the Year** for the Dover District at the Kent Teacher of the Year Awards 2025! Well done to Gráinne. We are very proud of her achievement.

**THANK YOU FROM OUR SCHOOLS:** St Edmund, St Richard and St Joseph Schools would like to thank all those who gave to the recent school uniform special collection. This outreach to less income children in our schools in Dover is our Lenten project for 2025. Each school received £234 to help pupils who can’t afford the uniform. We are pleased to collaborate with our local Catholic Schools in this way. May God bless your generosity. Fr. Leo.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** St Finbarr’s will have their cleaning day on **Saturday 31st May at 10am**. Bring your cleaning tools like rakes, chain saw- if you have one and other garden equipment. Come with hand gloves too.

**CONFIRMATION AT ST PAUL’S** continues every **Saturday in the upper room of the parish hall from 10am to 11am**. The Bishop will lead the confirmation ceremony in the Autumn.

**ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY ST PAUL’S:** The next pre 10am Mass rosary and post Mass bible study will take place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. OT Book of Exodus.

**FEAST OF PENTECOST SUNDAY: PARISH CULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

Pentecost is the birthday of the universal church and has special meaning for us as a Spiritan parish in Dover and Aylesham. The celebration will commence with Mass in both churches on that day and be followed by a parish social celebrating the diversity of our parish family. **At St Paul’s we will have one Mass on that Sunday at 10am. St Finbarr’s will have 11am as normal.** Please join us and come dressed in your national costume, and bring some food to share, ideally reflecting your cultural heritage. Scots, Welsh, Irish, Italian, Polish, Indian, African, Asian, Latin-American parishioners etc. have national dress and traditional food. England may not have a general national dress, so why not consider wearing something; red, white and blue. Regardless of what you wear, or what you bring to eat, the most important thing is to bring yourself and your family and join in the celebration. God bless, Fr Leo.

**DOVER: A PLACE OF SANCTUARY & HOPE. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2pm-4pm. St Mary’s Church Hall, Cannon Street, Dover CT16 1BY** Come along and mark the start of Refugee Week 15-21 June as we celebrate our refugees and the communities who have accompanied them. Jointly hosted by Caritas Southwark, Cliffs of Sanctuary and other local groups and charities. For further information contact [caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk) or pick up a leaflet at the back of church. The event will be an afternoon of reflection and activities in support of Refugees and their families and in honour of those people and groups that welcome them.

**THE BOY FROM NAZARETH** is an original play with music. To discover whether we have sufficient performers and singers of all ages, as well as organizers and technicians to contribute to a 'Christian Unity Production' this coming Christmas, we need to start very soon. **On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 10:30 - 12:30, there will be a meeting to discuss the project for Aylesham at St. Finbarr's. On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July there will be a meeting for Dover 10:30 -12:30.** We hope you will join us, if this attracts you. If you have any questions that need to be answered before the meetings, please email Jeremy Rowe on [jeremyhcrowe@btinternet.com](mailto:jeremyhcrowe@btinternet.com)

**RETROUVAILLE** is a marriage ministry, run by Catholics, to support marriages in trouble. We run 3 programmes a year, catering to about 75 couples who need help to find hope and healing in their relationship. If you are considering separation or are already divorced and open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. Contact us in confidence. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) +44 797 338 0443

**DAY FOR LIFE** Every year the Church in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland marks the Day for Life, as a reminder of the need to respect and protect the inherent value and dignity of each life. This year it will be celebrated on **15th June, Trinity Sunday**. Ahead of the Day for Life, we invite the faithful in all three conferences to join in prayer through the Novena for Life. This will run up to the Feast of the Visitation, between the **23rd and the 31st of May**. Prayers for each day can be found on the Day for Life page of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales’ website. <https://prayforlife.ie/> On the website you can also find a special message from the bishops and more prayers and resources.



Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal		
	May / June 2025	
Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy	Every Third Sunday 9am (Next 18 <sup>th</sup> May)	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm (Next 19 <sup>th</sup> May)	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Saturday 9.30am	St Paul's Hall, Dover
First Holy Communion Preparation	Every Sunday 9.30am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Young Adults SYCAMORE Course	Final Session Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 6pm	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
SYCAMORE Course, Fides & Bible Study, all combined session	Every Tuesday 7pm	St Finbarr's, Aylesham.
Confirmation Preparation	Every Saturday 10am	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Procession for Mary	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 10am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
The Ascension of the Lord	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	St Paul's, Dover 10am & 7pm St Finbarr's, Aylesham 7pm
Archdiocese Jubilee Celebration	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 10am – 5pm	Aylesford Priory
Pentecost Sunday Celebration (Both Churches)	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	St Paul's, Dover 10am St Finbarr's, Aylesham 11am
First Holy Communion (Both Churches)	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 11am	St Paul's, Dover St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Parish Family Day	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	St Paul's Dover St Finbarr's Aylesham

### CATECHISM- Catholic teaching on the use of statues and images in worship:

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Protestant Reformers stripped Catholic Churches of images, broke statues and stained glass. *The Catechism of the Council of Trent* (1566) taught that idolatry is committed "by worshipping idols and images as God, or believing that they possess any divinity or virtue entitling them to our worship, by praying to, or reposing confidence in them" (374). Images of Jesus, Mary and the saints have been used for decorational and devotional purposes since the beginning of Christianity. The Council of Trent explained the practice perfectly. "The images of Christ, the Virgin Mother of God, and the other saints are kept and honored in churches not because it is believed that there is any divinity or power in these images, or that anything may be asked of them or any faith put in them. The honor shown to them is really being given to the person whom they represent. Through these images which we kiss, and before which we bow with bared heads, we worship Christ and not the saints whose likeness they display." *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), states clearly, "Idolatry is a perversion of man's innate religious sense. An idolater is someone who 'transfers his indestructible notion of God to anything other than God'" (CCC #2114). We do not worship the holy images; we keep them as a reminder of the Lord and the saints whom we love. It is like keeping the photographs of our loved one, they always remind and connect our hearts to them.

#### PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV

*Faithful God, You guide us on the path of life and your goodness is our constant companion.  
Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, in his service of the Church.  
Fill him with the power of your Spirit, the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ.  
May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility, and lead us, together with all God's people,  
to embody your love for the world. Amen.*

#### Please Pray for those who are unwell:

**St Finbarr's:** Audrey Stitt, Elisabet Sulianti, Gabriela le Bohec, Charlie Golden, Tina Isaacs, Ray Deverson, Lucy Purbrick, Amanda Dennis, Jadon Michael Kalp, Denise Mastro, Tara Conklin, Jamie Chitwood.

**St Paul's:** John Doyle, Maria Frost, Roz & Rob Pain, Rosa Mazzitelli, David Meadows, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, Fr John Ryan, Pat Evans, Shirley Lazarus, Shirley Jefford, Clare Quigley, Gail White, Neil Stevens, John & Joyce Nix, Bailey Turner, Peggy Merrell, Ryan Whittall, Iris (Tilly) Ball, Jean Ann Dowle, Norman Woolhouse, Ted Peel, Christopher Browne, Angela, Alice Wilson, Angela Henbrey, Madison Woodall, Elisa Gomez Melero, Ann Tomalak, Cathy Huntley, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.

#### Please Pray for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

**St Finbarr's:** Paul Williams, Herbie Ruse, Patrick Cuff, Elizabeth Robinson, John Gerald Murphy, Arthur Cable, Patricia Morris, William Gunson, John Mountford, Vivienne Cooke, Margaret Deverson.

**St Paul's:** Michael Moran, Wayne Wilson, Katherine Elizabeth Martin, Michael McConnell, Stefanina Watson, Bridget Mitchell, Margaret Ferris, Caterina Falluto, Patrick Lynch, Robert Golding, Mary Hutchinson, Fred Pile, May Key, Patricia Frances Williamson, Molly Rooke, Ellen Bishop.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST FINBARR'S			
	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for Children of the Parish
Saint Bernardine of Siena	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7pm	SYCAMORE Course Fides & Bible Study Combined
Saint Christopher of Magallanes	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	10am	Mass for Children with Cancer
	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	4pm	Syro Malabar Mass
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation in Church Mass for Peace in Sudan
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S			
	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am 10am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall Confirmation Preparation in the upper hall Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Fr Godwin's Intention (Liz) Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Vincent Croft (Tim)
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Hilda & Alfred Smith RIP (Smith Family) Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy in the Upper Hall Coffee after Mass Mass for G/E Clare (Kath Quigley) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Final Sycamore Course for Young Adults
Saint Dunstan, Bishop	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	Mass for G/E Pope Leo
Saint Bernardine of Siena	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	Mass for Holy Souls
Saint Christopher of Magallanes	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Grace Mary Lawrence RIP 12 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exposition and Holy Rosary (until 6.30pm)
Saint Rita of Cascia	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary in the church Mass for Mary Dormay 'F' Bible Study in the hall OT Book of Exodus
	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	10am	Mass for Holy Souls in Purgatory
	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am 10am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion preparation in the hall Confirmation Preparation in the upper hall Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Victims of Abortion Confessions in the Church (until 5.45pm) Mass for G/E John Doyle (Andrea)
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Hector del Rio RIP (Ileana) Antoine Aime RIP (James) Coffee after Mass Mass for Mary Richards RIP (Mary) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Sycamore for Young Adults Fellowship Meal

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's [ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Keith Wells for St Paul's [doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's [doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the Editor: [dovernnewsletter@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dovernnewsletter@rcaos.org.uk)

Newsletter items received after 6pm Thursday may not be included that week. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles.

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# READINGS FOR SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

## First reading

Acts 14:21b-27

**‘They declared to the Church all that God had done with them.’**

In those days: Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

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## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 145(144):8-9. 10-11. 12-13b. R cf. 1**

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.  
or: Alleluia.*

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.  
or: Alleluia.*

All your works shall thank you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful ones bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,  
and declare your mighty deeds.

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.  
or: Alleluia.*

To make known your might to the whole human race,  
and the glorious splendour of your reign.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule endures for all generations.

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.  
or: Alleluia.*

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## Second reading

Revelation 21:1-5a

**‘God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’**

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.’

And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’

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## Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,  
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.  
Alleluia.

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## Gospel

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

**‘A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.’**

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, ‘Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you.

‘A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

## Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.**