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Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C – 17TH AUGUST 2025

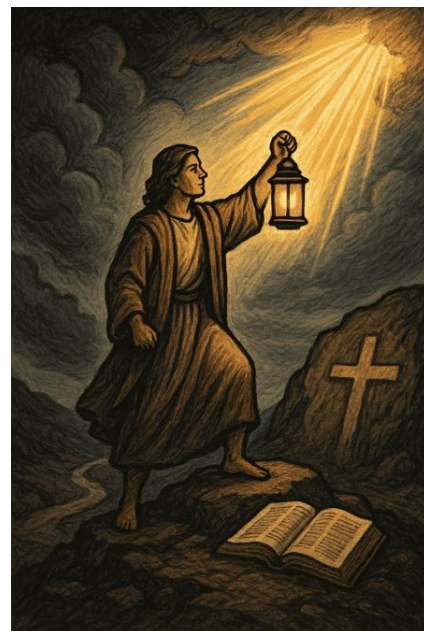
Missal P916 Order of the Mass P470

GOSPEL REFLECTION: DO NOT LOSE SIGHT – JER. 38:4-6, 8-10; HEB. 12:1-4, LK.12:49-53

The central theme of today's readings is that we should courageously live out our religious convictions and principles in our lives.

Jeremiah, in our first reading, is presented as experiencing the consequences of the burning word of God within him. His preaching divided the city and incited such opposition that people sought his death. He was thrown by his enemies into the muddy bottom of a deep, unused cistern to die for his "treason," though he was rescued from the cistern by Ebed-Melech, the Ethiopian. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 40) tells us that those who put their trust in God will be saved! Standing in this prophetic tradition, Paul, in the second reading, challenges the Judeo-Christians to stand firm in their Faith in Jesus. In today's Gospel, Jesus, too, preaches the word of God which continues to divide families, a word which, he knew, would ultimately lead to his death. The fire Jesus came to bring is the fire of love and the fire of hope. The disruption, division, and revolution, which Jesus and his true followers cause in society by the fire of sacrificial love and the fire of justice, are necessary to re-set what's fractured, put right what's dislocated, and cleanse what's infected. In other words, the curative pain caused by Jesus' ideas and ideals is necessary for the establishment of real *shalom* of God. Even though Jesus brings a sword and causes division, he is the bringer of true and lasting peace.

The Holy Spirit was sent into our hearts both in Baptism and at Confirmation to help set us on fire. "One who is on fire cannot sit on a chair." So, as Christians on fire, we have to inflame people to care, to serve, and to bless one another with all the gifts of Faith. We should allow that fire to burn off the impurities in us and to bring out the purity of the gold and silver within us.



STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - ACTION NEEDED! The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on **Friday, 12th September**. Right To Life UK has launched an *EasyAction* tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill. **Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds!**

ST. JUDE'S PRAYER GROUP will meet on **Monday 18th August** between **2 pm - 3 pm**. Please come along, you do not have to commit to come every month. **ALL are welcome.**

THANK YOU. Father Jamie would like to say a big thank you for the many cards and greetings I had for my birthday. Truly amazing!

HOLY ROSARY AT ST PAUL'S. Next Thursday's pre 10am Mass recitation of the rosary will take place on **Thursday 21st August**.

THE BIBLE STUDY has taken a break for August and will reconvene on **Thursday, 11th September** following the 10am Mass.

RECENTLY DIED. We are saddened to announce that **Mr. Dennis William Jones**, aged 92, passed away at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, on **24th July**. A long-standing parishioner of **St Finbarr's**, Dennis is lovingly remembered by his wife, Rose. As a young man he helped lay the bricks at the entrance of the church. The funeral service will be held at **Barham Crematorium** on **Friday, 5th September, at 12:00 noon**. The family warmly invites you to attend. Donations in Dennis' memory may be made to **Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity** via the website of **J. Dilnot Smith & Son Funeral Directors**.

THANK YOU - The family of **Barry Gibbs** who took ill during the Requiem Mass last Tuesday, would like to thank everyone at St. Paul's who helped in any way. Barry is still in Hospital, where he is slowly recovering.

PASTORS COMMISSIONING SERVICE INVITATION - Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the commissioning service for the new School, Rail, Street and Prayer Pastors on **Friday, 5th September 2025, 6.30pm for 7pm start, One Church, Noah's Arc Rd, Dover, CT17 0DD**. RSVP to secretary.dover@streetpastors.org.uk

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AT ST PAUL'S. Please note there will be no Sunday Morning Coffee after the 9am Mass during August, we will **restart on Sunday 7th September**.

FAMILIA UNA YOUNG ADULTS YOUTH GROUP will not be meeting during August. They will **restart in September**. Date to be confirmed.

ST FINBARR'S SYCAMORE COURSE, FIDES & BIBLE STUDY will be taking a break during August and **resume in September**. Date to be confirmed.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST FINBARR'S. The Children's Liturgy at St. Finbarr's will be taking a break for the month of August. They will **resume in September**. Have a lovely holiday. Best wishes Fran and Sophie.

DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES. We are looking for donations of board games, sports equipment and crafts for The Mustard Seeds and Junior Youth Group. If you have anything no longer in use, it would be greatly appreciated! A box will be left at the back of St Paul's church for donations. If anybody would like to donate a large item, please speak to George or Laura or email laakennett@gmail.com.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP - FAITH - HOPE – CHARITY - Junior Youth Group will reconvene on **Saturday, 6th September at St Paul's Hall 1 - 4pm**, for **9 to 15-year olds**. Sessions will be the **1st Saturday of every month**. Children will need a contact form for safeguarding purposes, and we kindly ask for a **voluntary £3 donation** to help with running costs. We will meet to grow in faith, spread hope by living the gospel values, and care for our parish and community through charity. Join us and have fun! More details to follow.

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON is holding a Celebration of **St Faustina Birthday** at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday **Monday, 25th August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm**. The reflection day will include teachings on the **Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus**. All welcome. Call Millie on **07957 594646**.

SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE: FOOTPRINTS OF HOPE - At the Shrine of Saint Jude in Faversham, we have created a beautiful new path called **'Footprints of Hope.'** This walkway offers a special way to remember loved ones. This is the last opportunity to add a name to this lasting tribute for just **£30** per brick. There is no limit on how many bricks you can order, and every name will form part of this symbol of hope and peace. If you would like to be a part of this lasting tribute of hope and peace, you must place your order by **29th August 2025** at www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/footprints or call **01795 539 214**. Additionally, more details can be found at the back of the church.

THE WELL: AN EVENING OF BEAUTY, REFLECTION & EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL Youth Groups and Confirmation candidates. Join Christopher West and musician Mike Mangione at St George's Cathedral on **Thursday 11th September 6:30pm to 9:30pm** for an evening of music and inspiration. **Tickets are £21** – selling fast! Book now: <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/dyfmqalv> Contact Fr. Dermott: dermottogorman@rcaos.org.uk

MARCH FOR LIFE UK. Join March for Life UK on **Saturday 6th September, in London!** The right to life underpins every other right we have and without it, every other right is rendered meaningless. Abortion denies the most vulnerable in our society their most basic right, the right to life, which is why this year's theme is **'Human Rights for All Humans'**. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event where we recognise the value of life from conception and stand up for all those who have been impacted by abortion. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk or email info@marchforlife.co.uk

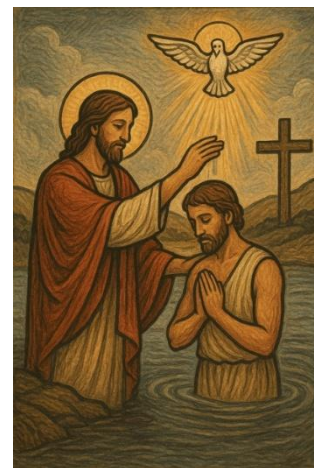
FEAST OF ST FRANCIS - Canterbury Franciscan Solitude Group – 25th Anniversary. We invite all who are inspired by St Francis and his legacy to join us for a special day marking our 25th year. **Care for Creation** – Celebrating St Francis's care for creation through fraternity, talks, and reflection. **Saturday 4 October, 10 am–3 pm**, St Thomas' Church Hall, Canterbury. Free of charge. Further information can be found on the registration link, stfrancis2025canterbury.eventbrite.co.uk

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham ‘Called to Bear Fruit’: Parish Renewal		
2025		
Mustard Seed Children’s Liturgy	Every Third Sunday 9am Restarts 21 st September	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude’s Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm 18 th August 2025	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
‘Familia Una’ Adult Youth Group	Every Sunday 6pm (No meeting in August)	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
SYCAMORE Course, Fides & Bible Study, all combined session	Every Monday 7pm (No meeting in August)	St Finbarr’s, Aylesham.
Fides Course	Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
Confirmation Preparation	Restarts Saturday 6 th September	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
Junior Youth Group	Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm Restarts Saturday 6 th September	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
Harvest Festival Mass	Sunday 5 th October 9am	St Paul’s Church, Dover
RCIA COURSE	Monday 6 th October 7pm	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul Hendricks	Sunday 12 th October 11am	St Paul’s, Dover

CATECHISM – WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

The Catholic doctrine is that Justification involves the free forgiveness of sins and the re-creation of the sinner through the infusion of justifying grace, otherwise known as sanctifying grace. This infusion makes us God’s truly just friends and adopted sons. God alone causes justification, working through the sacraments of baptism and reconciliation. “It occurs in the reception of the Holy Spirit in baptism and incorporation into the one body” (*Rom 8:1f, 9f; I Cor 12:12f*). “All this is from God alone, for Christ’s sake, by grace, through faith in *‘the gospel of God’s Son’ (Rom 1:1-3)*”.

Hence, the basis for justification – or the grounds on account of which God justifies— are the merits of Jesus Christ. “By grace alone, in faith in Christ’s saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works”.



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: Helen Scopes, 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 death anniversaries occur this week:

St Finbarr’s: Kevin & Mary McCartey, Owen McCallum, Michael Barrett, Josephine Elizabeth Margaret Fewkes, Nellie Mills, Valerie Mary Bailey, Bryn Rossiter, Charles Whitehouse, Antony Deverson, Judy West.

St Paul’s: Bessie Green, George Gibbins, Mary Goodacre, Sr. Mary Cyril, Fr Wilfred D’Silva, Christopher Hall, Anthony King, Richard Nolan, Lewis Harris, Mark Edward Tapley, Maureen Johnston, Bernard John Smith, Marie Donovan, Ted Huntley, Dr Penny Hill (nee Smye-Rumsby), Roberto Gismondi, Deacon Ray Partridge, Paul Mitchinson, Win Clarke, Allan Wills, Mona Richardson, Charlotte Hood, Norah Seary, Douglas Fletcher, Samuel Patrick Pitts.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 17 th August	11am	Mass for Residents of the Retirement Homes
SAINT BERNARD, ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL	Wednesday 20 th August	10am	Mass for Holy Souls
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 24 th August	11am	Mass for The Church in Asia
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
SAINT STEPHEN OF HUNGARY OR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 16 th August	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for the Persecuted Throughout the World Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Mary Elizabeth Stokes 'F'
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 17 th August	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Respect for the Sanctity of Life (Tim) Mass for People of the Parish Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
	Monday 18 th August	10am 2pm	Mass for Anita Cadman 'F' St Jude's Prayer Group
SAINT JOHN EUDES, PRIEST	Tuesday 19 th August	10am	Mass for Kay Emedo – Birthday Thanksgiving (Richard & Esiri)
SAINT BERNARD, ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL	Wednesday 20 th August	10am 5:30pm 7pm	Mass for 65 th Birthday of Mark Kennett (Henry and Laura) Exposition and Holy Rosary (until 6.30pm) Fides Session in the Hall
SAINT PIUS X, POPE, MEMORIAL	Thursday 21 st August	10am	Mass for Maureen and Joe Johnston (RIP) Colin
THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MEMORIAL	Friday 22 nd August	10am	Mass for Bruno Gismondi (Angelina)
SAINT ROSE OF LIMA, VIRGIN OR SAINTS JOHN WALL AND JOHN KEMBLE, PRIESTS AND MARTYRS, OR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 23 rd August	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Those who have received exam results Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Fr. Jamie's Birthday (Keith and Theresa)
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 24 th August	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Gordon Goodacre - RIP (Anne and Peter) Mass for Roberto Gismondi – RIP (Angelina) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's avleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Keith Wells for St Paul's doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Zoroaster Bordios for St Paul's doversg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the Editor: dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk
 Newsletter items received after 6pm Thursday may not be included that week. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles.
 A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

Readings for Sunday 17th August 2025

First Reading

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

'You bore me, a man of contention to the whole land.'

In those days: The officials said to the king, 'Let this man, Jeremiah, be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.' King Zedekiah said, 'Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.' So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Ebed-melech went from the king's house and said to the king, 'My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.' Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 40 (39):2. 3. 4. 18. R. 14b

LORD, make haste to help me!

Or: Alleluia

I waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me.

He heard my cry.

LORD, make haste to help me!

Or: Alleluia

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.

He set my feet upon a rock,
made my footsteps firm.

LORD, make haste to help me!

Or: Alleluia

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the LORD.

LORD, make haste to help me!

Or: Alleluia

Wretched and poor though I am,
the Lord is mindful of me.

You are my rescuer, my help;
O my God, do not delay.

LORD, make haste to help me!

Or: Alleluia

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1 – 4

'Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.'

Brothers and sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

John 10:27

Gospel

Luke 12:49-53

'I have not come to give peace but division'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided: three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

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.