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



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C – 31ST AUGUST 2025 Missal P924 Order of the Mass P470

We say Goodbye and Thank You to Fr. Stan who leaves us this weekend and has looked after us so well.

We welcome back Fr. Leo and hope he had a restful holiday and are thankful for his safe return to the Parish.

PRIEST CORNER: Dear beloved Parishioners, I bring you greetings from my family in Nigeria; thanking you for your prayers and good wishes. I had a great time with my family, connecting to my siblings and the many cousins, nephews and nieces. I also had the chance to celebrate the Holy Mass for my local Parish where I was raised as a child. It is all refreshing. Thank you.

On another note, I want to sincerely thank our dear Fr. Stan for all the hard work and dedication in serving our Parish in the last one month. We are deeply grateful. Thank you, dear Fr. Stan. We pray and wish him well as he continues to serve in another Parish in London before returning to the seminary where he teaches in Nigeria by October. Thank you also to Fr. Jamie, Deacon Barry and all our volunteers who kept doing their best to keep the parish moving. May the Lord bless you all. Fr. Leo

GOSPEL REFLECTION: BE HUMBLE - SIR 3:17-18, 20. 28-29; HEB 12:18 – 19. 22-24A; LK 14:1. 7-14



The theme of today's readings is the importance of practicing humility and avoiding self-glorification or pride. Humility is the mother not only of peace, but also of many virtues, like obedience, fear, reverence, patience, modesty, meekness, and gentleness. The first reading, taken from the book of Sirach, reminds us that if we are humble, we will find favour with God, and others will love us. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 68) shows us God's eternal awareness of the least of His children. The second reading, taken from Hebrews, gives another reason for us to be humble contrasting the Old Testament God of Power and majesty with the New Testament God's Only

begotten, now Incarnate Son, Jesus, who humbled Himself, taking on human flesh and living our lives so that he might die to save us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the practical benefits of humility, connecting it with the common wisdom about dining etiquette (see Prv 25:6-7; Sir 3:17-20). Jesus advises the guests to go to the lowest place instead of seeking places of honour so that the host may give them the place they deserve. Jesus' words concerning the seating of guests at a wedding banquet should prompt us to honour those whom others ignore. In our personal lives we grow into humility as we come to realize that everything we have is a loving gift from God and, therefore, we have no reason to elevate ourselves above others. Thomas Merton rightly pointed out that, pride makes us artificial, and humility makes us real.. True humility requires that we neither overestimate nor underestimate our worth. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and are called to help build the kingdom of God with our God-given gifts. We are of value, not because of those gifts, but because we are loved by God as His children and redeemed by the precious blood of His son Jesus. As St Francis would say, "What I am before God is what I am, and nothing more."

UK EMERGENCY ALERTS TEST. A national Emergency Alerts Test will take place next **Sunday, 7th September 2025 at 3pm**. Your phone or tablet will vibrate and make a loud siren sound, even if on silent. The message will confirm it's a test—**no action required**. Only the **government and emergency services** can send these alerts. Regular tests ensure the system works for real life-threatening emergencies. You can opt out, but keeping alerts on is recommended for your safety. More info: gov.uk/alerts

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!

HOLY ROSARY AT ST PAUL'S. Thursday's pre 10am Mass recitation of the rosary will take place on **Thursday 4th September**.

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

THE FIDES SESSION has taken a break and will reconvene on next **Wednesday, 10th September**, 6.40 for 7pm

PASTORS COMMISSIONING SERVICE INVITATION - Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the commissioning service for the new School, Rail, Street and Prayer Pastors this **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

PLEASE PRAY FOR. Mr. Dennis William Jones, aged 92, who passed away on the **24th July**. The funeral service will be held at **Barham Crematorium** this **Friday, 5th September, at 12:00 noon**.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AT ST PAUL'S. Please note that Sunday Morning Coffee after the 9am Mass will restart next **Sunday, 7th September**.

CONFIRMATION 2025. Please note confirmation classes resumes this **Saturday, 6th September** at 10am in the St. Paul's Upper Room.

FAMILIA UNA YOUNG ADULTS YOUTH GROUP. The Familia Una Young Adults Youth Group had taken a break for August. Please note Familia UNA's Faith and Life meetings will reconvene next **Sunday, 7th September**.

ST FINBARR'S SYCAMORE COURSE, FIDES & BIBLE STUDY. The St Finbarr's Sycamore Course, Fides & Bible Study had taken a break during August. Please note they are scheduled to **restart in September**. Date to be confirmed

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST FINBARR'S. The Children's Liturgy at St. Finbarr's will **resume in September**. Date to be confirmed

DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: THANK YOU. A huge thank you to all those parishioners who have kindly donated board games, sports equipment and crafts for The Mustard Seeds and Junior Youth Group at St Paul's. We have now filled our cupboard to the point of overflowing! We are very grateful, and the items will be put to good use. Thank you once again!

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP: RETURNS NEXT WEEK - Junior Youth Group returns this **Saturday, 6th September 1 - 4pm** at St. Paul's Church Hall. All children of the parish, ages **9 to 15 year olds** are welcome to join us. The JYG team will be handing out consent forms at the end of each Mass for those children who wish to join. These need to be completed by a parent or carer and returned at the first meeting. A small voluntary donation of whatever you can give is welcomed. We understand that it may not be possible for some families to donate, so please do not feel under any obligation, it will not prevent your child from attending. Any questions, please speak to a member of the team after 9am and 11am Mass.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK. Join March for Life UK this **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

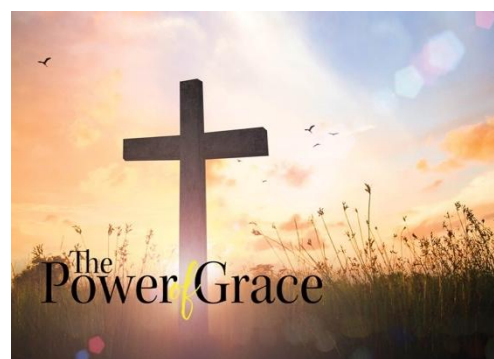
ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS. **Saturday, 20th September – Registration now open!** You are invited to join us for a day filled with teachings and prayer and a chance to meet fellow Catechists. Join us at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HU from 10am. Registration and choice of workshops can be found at aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025

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, 4th 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 21st September	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude’s Prayer Group	Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm (15th September)	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
‘Familia Una’ Adult Youth Group	Every Sunday 6pm Restarts 7th September	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 Restarts 10th September	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
Confirmation Preparation	Restarts Saturday 6th September	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
Junior Youth Group	Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm (6th September)	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
Harvest Festival Mass	Sunday 5th October 9am	St Paul’s Church, Dover
RCIA COURSE	Monday 6th October 7pm	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul Hendricks	Sunday 12th October 11am	St Paul’s, Dover

CATECHISM – WHY DO CATHOLICS MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS?

The Church has always attributed effects of grace and power to the use of the holy sign of the cross. It reminds us that God has loved us so much as to give up His only Son for our sake to suffer on the Cross, and that we must love Him with our whole hearts. It recalls to us that we are bound to imitate in our daily conduct the penance, mortification, humility, meekness, patience, detachment, chastity, agape love and obedience of Jesus our Lord and Master. It revives our faith with belief in the Unity and Trinity of God and the Incarnation and Redemption. It strengthens our hope by recalling that all blessings come through the Cross and by fostering a habit of seeking aid through the Cross. Learn the habit of making the sign of the cross frequently either at the start of a prayer or just on its own as a short prayer of blessing before you drive, eat, travel, decide, work, etc.



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: Janet Pendlebury, Mary Ann Bramwell, Joan Kathleen Trim, Lord Robert Leslie Eustace Maude Hawarden

St Paul’s: Tom Heath, Patricia Wolsoncroft, John O'Bree, Bridget Mahon, Gladys Sullivan, Florence Mary Newing, John Tollan, Ernest Edward Stokes, Seamus Mallon, Mary Morris, Ralph Coyne, Gladys Parsons, Mary Brewer, Denis Brazil, Mary Alice Huntley, Timothy Smye-Rumsby, Dennis Wilson, Sean O'Connor, Henry Berrecloth, Mary Josephine Noakes, Eddie McCue Jr., Gabriel Frank Kelly, Mary Hawkins, Yvonne Ottley, Ralph George, Bernard Smye-Rumsby, Susan Catherine Bell, Eileen Mary Tumber

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 31 st August	11am	Mass for The Spread of the Gospel
	Wednesday 3 rd September	10am	Eucharistic Service at St. Finbarr's
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 7 th September	11am	Mass for People of the Parish
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
SAINTS MARGARET CLITHEROW, ANNE LINE AND MARGARET WARD, MARTYRS, MEMORIAL	Saturday 30 th August	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Those Returning to University and School for the new Academic Year Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Parish Volunteers
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 31 st August	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Sue Barton - Birthday (Mary) Mass for The Spread of the Gospel Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
SAINT EDMUND ARROWSMITH, PRIEST AND MARTYR	Monday 1 st September	10am	Mass for Mrs. R.E Abudu (Richard and Esiri)
	Tuesday 2 nd September	10am	Mass for Deceased Clergy of St. Paul's Church
SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	Wednesday 3 rd September	10am 5:30pm 7pm	Mass for Kathleen Quigley Birthday (Keith and Theresa) Exposition and Holy Rosary (until 6.30pm) Fides Session in the Hall (resumes 10th September)
SAINT CUTHBERT, BISHOP,	Thursday 4 th September	9:30am 10am	The Rosary Ordinariate Mass for The Hungry in Gaza
	Friday 5 th September	10am	Mass for G/E Ros and Rob (Lizzie)
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 6 th September	10am 10am 2pm 5pm 6pm	Confirmation Preparation Class in the Upper Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel G/E Veronika and Ivo (Tim) Junior Youth Group Meeting in the Hall Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Carers of the Sick
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 7 th September	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Roberto Gismondi RIP (Bernardina) Coffee after Mass Mass for People of the Parish Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's ayleshamsg2@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 31st August 2025

First Reading

Sirach 3:17-18, 20. 28-29

'Humble yourself so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord'

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; he is glorified by the humble. The affliction of the proud has no healing, for a plant of wickedness has taken root in him. The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man's desire.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 68(67):4-5ac. 6-7b. 10-11. R. cf. 11b

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

Or: Alleluia

The upright shall rejoice at the presence of God; they shall exult with glad rejoicing.

O sing to God; make music to his name.

The LORD is his name.

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

Or: Alleluia

Father of orphans, defender of widows:

such is God in his holy place.

God gives the desolate a home to dwell in;

he leads the prisoners forth into prosperity.

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

Or: Alleluia

You poured down, O God, a generous rain;
when your heritage languished, you restored it.

It was there that your flock began to dwell.

In your goodness, O God, you provided for the poor.

In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

Or: Alleluia

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18 – 19. 22-24a

'You have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God.'

Brothers and sisters: You have not come to what may be touched: a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,

and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart

Alleluia.

Matthew 11:29ab

Gospel

Luke 14:1. 7-14

'Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, "Give your place to this person", and then you, with shame, will take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher." Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends, or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'

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.