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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>

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C – 14th SEPTEMBER 2025

Missal P932 Order of the Mass P470

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY - CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE

FR. JOHN RYAN MBE RIP. Fr. Ryan's funeral Mass took place at St Mary of the Crays in Crayford last Wednesday. I am grateful to some of our parishioners along with our parish secretary for attending the Mass. His body was taken last Thursday to County Cork, Ireland for the Requiem Mass and burial at St Mary's Church, Berrings, Co Cork on Monday 15th September 2025 at 11.00. His Obituary is available to read at the following link <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Father-John-Ryan-MBE-RIP-Obituary.pdf> or a few copies are available in the porch of St Paul's. A summary is below.

OBITUARY OF FR. RYAN

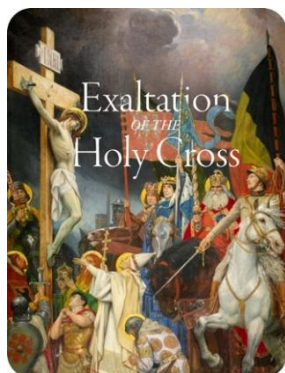


Fr. John Ryan was born on 30th November 1941 in Argharina House, Dripsey, Co Cork, and died on the 31st of August, 2025 at the age of 84. He laboured in the Lord's Vineyard as a Priest for 59 years. **Here is the excerpt from the written obituary of Fr. John from the Diocese on his mission in Dover.** "Fr. John moved to Dover in September 1996 and was inducted by Bishop Jukes on 31st October 1996 and served there for almost 8 years. During his ministry the parish developed, and many lay led initiatives were encouraged by him. Fr. John was described by Bishop Jukes as an energetic and sacramental priest and he is to be commended for his pastoral care of the sick and the housebound. At that time the port of Dover was changing following the opening of the Channel Tunnel but it was still an important port and an entry point for refugees.

Fr. John, along with the other clergy in the Dover deanery, developed a pastoral outreach of welcome to these refugees, often going against the media hostility to them at that time. The parish of Dover under his leadership was a place of welcome, and Bishop Jukes commended this in his visitation report that there is a lot of work going on here."

He was a popular parish priest, whose varied ministries brought him into contact with many different pastoral situations. He was generous in his ministry and devoted to the people he served. May his gentle soul rest in Peace. Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on September 14, traces its origins to the early 4th century. After the Emperor Constantine's victory at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge (312 AD), his mother, St. Helena, travelled to the Holy Land and, according to tradition, discovered the True Cross of Christ around 326 AD. To honor this discovery, Constantine built the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, which was dedicated on September 13, 335. The following day, September 14, the Cross was solemnly exalted and shown to the faithful, giving rise to the feast.

The cross is the supreme Christian paradox where victory is born of defeat. It is the meeting place of contradiction: humiliation and exaltation, suffering and glory. To be lifted high, Christ first descended into the depths of human pain. Both movements, downward and upward are salvific, both unveil the salvific love of God. Let this be a solemn reminder: Christian leadership is not about prestige, but cruciform surrender. If one is unwilling to embrace the cross to die to self, comfort, and control, one cannot truly lead in the name of Christ.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL FOR THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL (MSP) NEXT WEEKEND

Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo MSP, of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSP), will make the mission appeals next weekend. The MSP is a religious congregation working in different parts of the world, committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvific work of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. The MSP warmly invites you to support their mission appeal. There will be a second collection at all Masses.

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT will begin next weekend 20th – 21st September for four weeks. Would those who normally count please take note. Thank you.

HOLY ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S. The next pre 10am Mass recitation of the rosary and post Mass bible study, will take place on **Thursday, 18th September**. OT Book of Exodus.

THE FIDES SESSION at St Paul's this and every Wednesday, at 6.40 for 7pm.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASS 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.

FAMILIA UNA YOUNG ADULTS YOUTH GROUP. Familia UNA's Faith and Life meetings this and every Sunday, at 6pm in the Upper Room of St Paul's Hall.

THE NEXT ADULT RCIA COURSE will begin on **Monday, 6th October at 7pm in St Paul's Upper Hall**. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining the Catholic Faith please give them the date and invite them along.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN DOVER (CTiD) Parishioners are cordially invited to attend the CTiD Open meeting on **Tuesday, 16th September, 7pm**, at Dover Baptist Church. We are looking forward to hearing from Scott Wellard, One Church Dover, together with updates from both CTiD and local Churches.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE. Free online Sycamore course **Growing in Faith Together** for married and engaged couples began on **Tuesday, 9th September at 8pm (4 X 1 hour session over 4 weeks)**. Please contact mflkent@rcaos.org.uk. To celebrate Jubilee 2025 one day Building a Better Marriage events will be held during 2025. **The opportunity for married couples starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4.30pm and is free to attend. Saturday, 4th October – Holy Cross, Catford; Saturday, 1st November – St James the Great, Petts Wood;** To join one of these days please contact Carole on 07983 524 727 or email: mflkent@rcaos.org.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

ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK A SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING for those who have been harmed by abuse. Led by Archbishop John Wilson. **Wednesday, 24th September 6.30pm St Georges Cathedral Southwark.**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: MacMillan Coffee Morning will be held at Our Lady of Dover Buckland parish on **Sunday, 28th September** after the 10.30am Mass until 1pm. Everyone welcome. There will be plenty of cakes, a raffle and activities for the children.

THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK'S funds are dangerously low. **Help London's Pro-Life Pregnancy Centre Stay Open.** We offer expectant mums help with housing, financial assistance, legal, and medical support, baby goods and clothes, advice, ongoing support long after the baby is born. If we run out of funds, we cannot continue to help dozens of Mothers keep a roof over their head. **Support Good Counsel today.** Go to <http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com/> donation page for more details.



ST THOMAS'S PARISH CANTERBURY is organising another gathering to follow up on themes of the Synod for Synodality on **Saturday 25th October 10am-1pm**. In the company of Rev Dr Jan Nowotnik, we will be considering the themes of change, including fear of change, and how, in the context of the Final Document, 'worldwide' can become 'local'. We encourage people to register on the Eventbrite website, where fuller information about the morning's agenda can also be found. <https://achangingchurch.eventbrite.co.uk> If you have queries, please address these to Daphne Ellis email daphnehellis@aol.com phone 07377 168174.

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham ‘Called to Bear Fruit’: Parish Renewal		
2025		
Mustard Seed Children’s Liturgy	Every Third Sunday 9am (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	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
SYCAMORE Course, Fides & Bible Study, all combined session	Every Monday 7pm	St Finbarr’s, Aylesham.
Fides Course	Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm	St Paul’s Hall, Dover
Confirmation Preparation	Every Saturday 10:00am	St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover
Junior Youth Group	Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm	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 ON TATTOOES



What does the church teach about tattoos and body piercings? If your tattoos mean that you are consecrating yourself unto something other than God, then don’t do that. If your tattoos mean that you are consecrating yourself to some kind of the dead or some sort of secret courts, then don’t do that. The question is; what I am saying with this Tattoos? The church does not absolutely forbid tattoos or piercings. Moral teaching looks instead at intention, moderation, and respect for the body. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, meant for the glory of God. A tattoo is not sinful simply because it is a tattoo. What matters is whether it respects the dignity of the body, avoids vanity, and does not give scandal.

A small, modest tattoo may be morally neutral, but covering the body in ways that disfigure it, encourage immodesty, or imitate Pagan or anti-Christian practices would be wrong. The catechism teaches, "Respect for the human body is an expression of respect for the creator." That's paragraph 2290. The church calls us not to thoughtless self-expression, but to prudence, modesty and reverence for the body that will one day rise in glory. (Lev. 19-

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, 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: Daphne Thomas, Myrtle Fullinfaw, Mary Beatrice Jones, Richard Ian Shepherdson, Sheila Mary Lambrous, Arthur McCallum, Mary Irving

St Paul’s: Nancy Nash, Russell Woolhouse, Isabella Jones, Rose Neary, Pauline Chapman, Maggie Tait, Benjamin Leat, Sr Barbara Walsh DC, Richard Barry Black, David Hanson, Christopher Mulligan, Susan Atmore, Patricia Ferris, Arthur Lawrence, Sylvia Julie Eastwood, Joan Groves, Mary McCallum, Molly Stennet, Mary Cott

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 14th September	11am	Mass for The Disabled
	Monday 15th September	7pm	SYCAMORE Course, Fides & Bible Study, all combined session
	Wednesday 17th September	10am	Mass for People in Debt Crisis
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 21st September	11am	Mass for Children of Gaza
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	Saturday 13th September	10am 10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Keith Wells Confirmation Preparation Class in the Upper Hall Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for Fr. John Ryan RIP
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 14th September	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Families & Victims of the Minneapolis Shooting Coffee after Mass Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
OUR LADY OF SORROWS, MEMORIAL	Monday 15th September	10am	Mass for Zlata Raczova RIP
SAINTS CORNELIUS, POPE, AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYRS, MEMORIAL	Tuesday 16th September	10am	Mass for G/E Joannis Kurtis (Tim)
SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH OR SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.	Wednesday 17th September	10am 5:30pm 7pm	Mass for Jonas Csik Exposition and Holy Rosary (until 6.30pm) Fides Session in the Hall
SAINT EDITH OF KEMSING, DIOCESAN	Thursday 18th September	9:30am 10am 10.30am	The Rosary Mass for Respect for the Sanctity of Life (Tim) Bible Study in the Hall (OT Book of Exodus).
SAINT THEODORE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP, OR SAINT JANUARIUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR	Friday 19th September	10am	Mass for G/E Christopher Moloney (Tim)
SAINT ANDREW KIM TAE-GON, PRIEST AND PAUL CHONG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS	Saturday 20th September	10am 10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Suffering souls Purgatory (Tim) Confirmation Preparation Class in the Upper Hall Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm) Mass for People of the Parish
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 21st September	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Fr. John Ryan RIP (Theresa) Coffee after Mass Mass for Paul and Carol W/A (Mary) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet

Readings for Sunday, 14th September 2025

First Reading

Exodus 32:7-11. 13-14

'The Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people'

In those days: The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down, for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly from the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" And the LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.'

But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, 'O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, "I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it for ever.'" And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 51(50):3-4, 12-13, 17, 19. R. Luke 15:18

I will arise and go to my father

Or: Alleluia

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your merciful love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me completely from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

I will arise and go to my father

Or: Alleluia

Create a pure heart for me, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, take not your holy spirit from me.

I will arise and go to my father

Or: Alleluia

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. My sacrifice, to God, a broken spirit; a broken and humbled heart, you will not spurn, O God.

I will arise and go to my father

Or: Alleluia

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

'Christ came to save sinners.'

Beloved: I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of

our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

God was in Christ reconciling to the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Alleluia.

2 Corinthians 5:19

Gospel

Luke 15:1-32

'There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents'

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

'Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy

to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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.