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 St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: [www.churchservices.tv/dover](http://www.churchservices.tv/dover)  
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C – 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

Missal P928 Order of the Mass P470

**WELCOME BACK TO ALL THOSE RETURNING FROM THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS!**

**PRIEST CORNER:** This week, we offer prayers for the repose of the soul of Fr. John Ryan who is our former Parish Priest in Dover from 1996 to 2004. From Dover he moved to St Mary of the Crays Catholic Church in Crayford. He later retired due to poor health. He died on the 31st of August, 2025 peacefully at Adelaide Care Home, Bexleyheath, Kent. Deeply mourned by his family, Archbishop John, Priests and Parishioners of the Archdiocese of Southwark. In Dover, we do not forget his ministry in our Parish community; we thank God for his life and ministry. May his gentle soul rest in Peace. Amen. Funeral arrangements will be announced later. May he Rest in Peace.

### GOSPEL REFLECTION: THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP- LUKE 14:25-23.

In Luke's Gospel today, Jesus is not calling us to hate father and mother, but instead, He is calling us to a commitment above all other commitments, including commitment to family. When Jesus said, "*hate your family,*" he was talking about spiritual detachment, the ability to put God first, before other relationships and before



self-interest. Without such detachment, one does not have the ability truly to follow Jesus. The challenge is that Jesus cannot just be a part of our lives, but He must be its center, because without God, we can do nothing! Love for Christ does not exclude the other loves, but rather orders them. Indeed, it is in Christ that every genuine love finds its foundation, its support, and the necessary grace to be fully lived out.

Jesus lays out some conditions for true Christian discipleship; number 1, renouncing every attachment and self-interest by putting God first, 2, Willingly sharing our blessings with others; 3, accepting the hard consequences of discipleship which include offering daily sacrificial service to others; and being faithful in our stewardship, faithful in our worship attendance, -faithful in our sexuality, honest in our business practices, and we must show compassion for the less fortunate. We must bear our crosses in loving obedience to the

Father. it has been rightly said that "*whoever looks for Jesus without the cross will find the cross without Jesus,*" that is, he will certainly find the cross but not the strength to carry it. St. John Vianney: "*The Cross is the ladder to Heaven.*" Today, let us pray for the grace to be faithful in following Jesus despite our daily crosses.

**MAUREEN CLUNAS** Maureen celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday on **Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September** and is attending the 11am mass today, here at St Pauls, **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September**, to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Please keep Maureen and all the other parishioners who have reached the age of 90, or older, in your prayers.

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AT ST PAUL'S** resumes after the 9am Mass today. We are looking for more volunteers to join the rota. Would you, or perhaps one of our Parish Groups, be willing to help once every six weeks or so? Please contact Anne Castle 07833 593599 if you can help.

**UK EMERGENCY ALERTS TEST.** A national Emergency Alerts Test will take place today, **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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 this **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers) to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds!*

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE:** There will be a second collection next Sunday for The Catholic Education Service (CES). The Catholic Education Service (CES), on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, supports Catholic education in England and Wales. It works with governments, oversees over 2,000 schools educating 800,000+ students, advises on education policy, and provides financial help for rural school transport.

**HOLY ROSARY AND BIBLE STUDY AT ST PAUL'S.** The next pre 10am Mass recitation of the rosary and post Mass bible study, which was on summer break, will take place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. OT Book of Exodus.

**THE FIDES SESSION** at St Paul's will reconvene this **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September** 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 will reconvene today **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm** in the Upper Room of St Paul's Hall.

**ST FINBARR'S SYCAMORE COURSE, FIDES & BIBLE STUDY** will be restarting tomorrow, Monday **8<sup>th</sup> September**.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST FINBARR'S.** The Children's Liturgy at St. Finbarr's will **resume this Sunday**.

**COLLECTIONS FOR AUGUST:** Cash & CollecTin £3,062.08; Bankers Orders £3,029.00; Thank you for your generosity. God bless. Fr Leo.

**THE NEXT ADULT RCIA COURSE** will begin on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER** Christians Together in Dover will mark the 2025 National Week of Prayer with three events this September:

- **Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Lunchtime Prayer, 12–2pm, River Anglican Church
- **Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Morning Prayer, 7–9:30am, One Church
- **Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Evening Prayer, 6–8pm, Dover Baptist Church

All are welcome to join as we unite our communities in prayer. [www.nationalweekofprayer.uk](https://www.nationalweekofprayer.uk) and you may also watch the video at [https://youtu.be/tPUPTvvLoRY?si=l8wKI8XRrFMLT\\_76](https://youtu.be/tPUPTvvLoRY?si=l8wKI8XRrFMLT_76)

**CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN DOVER (CTiD)** Parishioners are cordially invited to attend the CTiD Open meeting on **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> 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 beginning on this **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm (4 X 1 hour session over 4 weeks)**. Please contact [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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. **13<sup>th</sup> September – Southwark Cathedral, London; 4<sup>th</sup> October – Holy Cross, Catford; 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS.** **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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, 24<sup>th</sup> 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, 28<sup>th</sup> 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/> donatation page for more details.

| <b>Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham</b><br><b>'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal</b> |  |                                    |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 2025   |  |                                    |
| <b>Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy</b>   | <b>Every Third Sunday 9am</b><br><b>(21<sup>st</sup> September)</b>        | <b>St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover</b> |
| <b>St Jude's Prayer Group</b>  | <b>Every Third Monday 2pm – 3pm</b><br><b>(15<sup>th</sup> September )</b> | <b>St Paul's Hall, Dover</b>       |
| <b>'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group</b>   | <b>Every Sunday 6pm</b>  | <b>St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover</b> |
| <b>SYCAMORE Course, Fides &amp; Bible Study, all combined session</b>                                  | <b>Every Monday 7pm</b>  | <b>St Finbarr's, Aylesham.</b>     |
| <b>Fides Course</b>  | <b>Every Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm</b>                                      | <b>St Paul's Hall, Dover</b>       |
| <b>Confirmation Preparation</b>  | <b>Every Saturday 10:00am</b>  | <b>St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover</b> |
| <b>Junior Youth Group</b>  | <b>Every First Saturday 1pm – 4pm</b>                                      | <b>St Paul's Hall, Dover</b>       |
| <b>Harvest Festival Mass</b>   | <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 9am</b>                                   | <b>St Paul's Church, Dover</b>     |
| <b>RCIA COURSE</b>   | <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 7pm</b>                                   | <b>St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover</b> |
| <b>Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul Hendricks</b>  | <b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 11am</b>                                 | <b>St Paul's, Dover</b>            |

### CATECHISM ON SUFFERING

**St. Padre Pio:** *"If you knew the value of suffering, you would not give it up."*  
 What does it mean to offer up suffering? To offer it up means uniting our sufferings to the cross of Christ. Pain and trials by themselves can crush us, but in Christ, they become redemptive. Saint Paul wrote, "I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body," that is, the church. Colossians chapter one verse 24. When we consciously give our struggles to God, in patience, in prayer, in love, they are joined to Christ's sacrifice and gain eternal value.

Offered up, suffering becomes intercession for souls, penance for sin, and a path to holiness. The catechism says, "By his passion and death on the cross, Christ has given a new meaning to suffering. It can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive passion." That's paragraph 1505. To offer up suffering is not resignation, but transformation. Letting the cross-bear fruit in us and through us.



#### **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:** Margaret Doreen Davis, Shelagh Margaret Rose, Keith Purbrick

**St Paul's:** Stephen Nolan, Naomi Green, Jack Storey, Margaret Skinner, Kathleen Greenwood, Isabella Jones, Kenneth Lazarus, John Christopher Kennedy, Laurence Quigley, Margaret Hearne, Marie-Therese Hatherley, Sean O'Regan, Annie Workman, John Howland, Katherine Humphrey, Josephine Watt, Eileen Bishop, John Peter Shearn, Julie Annette Green, Patrick Gosgrave, Patricia Baker, Cynthia Asquith, Mme Lucienne Roby, Ronald William MacDonald, Michael John Joseph Doyle



| EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S                                  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                        | <b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>     | <b>11am</b>  | <b>Mass for People of the Parish</b>   |
|  | <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>     | <b>7pm</b>   | <b>SYCAMORE Course, Fides &amp; Bible Study, all combined session</b>  |
|  | <b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b> | <b>10am</b>  | <b>Mass for Parish Volunteers</b>  |
| <b>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                       | <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | <b>11am</b>  | <b>Mass for The Disabled</b>   |
| EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>                                     | <b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>   | <b>10am</b><br><b>10am</b><br><b>1pm</b><br><b>5pm</b><br><b>6pm</b> | <b>Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Veronika and Ivo (Tim)</b><br><b>Confirmation Preparation Class in the Upper Hall</b><br><b>Junior Youth Group Meeting in the Hall</b><br><b>Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm)</b><br><b>Mass for Carers of the Sick</b> |
| <b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                        | <b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>     | <b>9am</b><br><b>11am</b><br><b>3pm</b>                              | <b>Mass for Roberto Gismondi RIP (Bernardina)</b><br><b>Coffee after Mass</b><br><b>Mass for People of the Parish</b><br><b>Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet</b>  |
|  | <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>     | <b>10am</b>  | <b>Mass for Elizabeth Compton 'F'</b>  |
|  | <b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | <b>10am</b>  | <b>Mass for Fr. Mychal Judge &amp; victims of 9/11 attack in 2001</b>  |
|  | <b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b> | <b>10am</b><br><b>5:30pm</b><br><b>7pm</b>                           | <b>Mass for G/E Keith Wells (Marie)</b><br><b>Exposition and Holy Rosary (until 6.30pm)</b><br><b>Fides Session in the Hall</b>  |
| <b>SAINT AMBROSE BARLOW, PRIEST AND MARTYR</b>                     | <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>  | <b>9:30am</b><br><b>10am</b><br><b>10.30am</b>                       | <b>The Rosary</b><br><b>Mass for Fr. John Ryan RIP (Marie)</b><br><b>Bible Study in the Hall (OT Book of Exodus).</b>  |
| <b>THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY OR SAINT EANSWYTHE OF FOLKESTONE</b> | <b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | <b>10am</b>  | <b>Mass for Children in Care</b>   |
| <b>SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</b>      | <b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>  | <b>10am</b><br><b>10am</b><br><b>5pm</b><br><b>6pm</b>               | <b>Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for The Spread of the Gospel</b><br><b>Confirmation Preparation Class in the Upper Hall</b><br><b>Confessions in the Church (until 5:45pm)</b><br><b>Mass for Fr. John Ryan RIP</b>   |
| <b>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                       | <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | <b>9am</b><br><b>11am</b><br><b>3pm</b>                              | <b>Mass for Families &amp; Victims of the Minneapolis Shooting</b><br><b>Coffee after Mass</b><br><b>Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert)</b><br><b>Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet</b>  |

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For a newsletter emailed weekly, or to suggest articles/additions, contact the Editor: [dovernewsletter@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## First Reading

Wisdom 9:13-18b

*'Who can discern what the Lord wills?'*

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom, and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you, and were saved by wisdom.

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## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14. 17. R. 1

*O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

*Or: Alleluia*

You turn man back to dust,  
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'  
To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
or like a watch in the night.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

*Or: Alleluia*

You sweep them away like a dream,  
like grass which is fresh in the morning.  
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;  
by evening it withers and fades.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

*Or: Alleluia Or: Alleluia*

Then teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Turn back, O Lord! How long?  
Show pity to your servants.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

*Or: Alleluia*

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us;  
give success to the work of our hands.  
O give success to the work of our hands.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

*Or: Alleluia*

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## Second Reading

Philemon 9b-10. 12-17

*'Have him back no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.'*

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus – I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother – especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

## Acclamation before the Gospel

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Let your face shine forth on your servant,  
and teach me your decrees.

**Alleluia.**

**Psalm 119(118):135**

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## Gospel

**Luke 14:25-31**

*'Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'*

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a peaceful way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

## 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.**