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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>

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A – 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026

*Missal P322 Order of the Mass P470*  
*Second Collection for World Communications Day*  
*Marian Procession at St Finbarr's 10am Today*

**\*\*NEXT SUNDAY MASS AT ST. PAUL'S AT 10AM ONLY\*\***

### PRIEST CORNER:

We are about to celebrate the birthday of the Church which is the day of Pentecost. It was after the Pentecost that the apostles gained the gifts of the Holy Spirit which empowered them to go out and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere. On that day, the languages used by the apostles was understood by every nation. In our churches, we are going to replicate the gift of the Holy Spirit by participating in different languages and cultures that God has blessed us with. Each culture and nation should try to be represented.

It is also the birthday of the Spiritan Congregation and a big celebration for us. We are using this celebration to encourage our parishioners and friends to help the missionary work of the Spiritans which we share in with you. The Spiritans work in many countries and speak many languages as the Holy Spirit directs. To continue this work, we need to train new priests which takes about 12 years to achieve. We need resources to achieve this goal and that is the reason for asking for your help as we share the gift aid envelopes available at the back of church. You can contribute in any other way and we will appreciate it. Thank you for all the support you have always given to the Spiritans.



### GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Jesus never ceases to pray. He prayed for himself and for his apostles and the rest of his followers. He has finished his earthly work in human form and is now entrusting his ministry to the apostles. They needed support to be able to continue this ministry, and it is the Holy Spirit whom he promised them that will be with them until the end of time. One of the greatest witnesses to the gospel that the apostle and early Christians did was uniting in prayer. The departure of Jesus on Ascension Day never dampened their spirit as they hanged on to the promise that Jesus made to them regarding sending to them the Holy Spirit who will remain with them. They continued to be united in prayers and waiting for the fulfilment of the great promise. In the same way let us continue to be always united in prayers for the strength to remain faithful to our calling even in times of persecutions.

**THE NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT STARTED ON FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY**

It will be recited every day at Mass until Pentecost

<https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Pentecost-Novena-2026.pdf>

**PRAYER FOR SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY**

O my God, you who lead all those who truly trust in you toward the heavenly Jerusalem, I place myself entirely in your hands. I surrender myself to your divine Providence; I renounce my own will, that I may follow yours with simplicity and trust. Make known to me what you ask of me, so that I may live on this earth the state of life you have chosen for me. Grant me the graces I need to serve you faithfully and to give glory to your divine Majesty throughout my pilgrimage. Amen.



**FEAST OF PENTECOST SUNDAY: PARISH CULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY** 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 ONLY ON SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 10AM. St Finbarr's will have 11am as normal.** Please join us and come dressed in your national costume if you have one. Regardless of what you wear, or what you bring to eat, the most important thing is to bring yourselves and your family and join in the celebration.

**THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR PENTECOST NEXT WEEKEND for Spiritans Priest Training.** This is in support of the Spiritans (Congregation of the Holy Spirit) and their vital work in training future missionary priests. Envelopes are available at the back of both churches.

**PENTECOST DECORATIONS.** We are hoping to decorate the church and hall with beautiful decorations. We are calling all children and adults who enjoy colouring! Please take a sheet from the back of the church home with you, **colour it in and return it, by Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Many thanks!**

**MUSTARD SEEDS CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST PAUL'S** will take place during the 10am Mass on Pentecost Sunday next week. All children are welcome to join to learn more about what Pentecost means to us and do some arts and crafts.

**ST PAUL'S SCOUT GROUP** Quiz night, **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm** at St Paul's Hall. Raising funds for the Scout Group. Tables of up to 6 available, £5 a head. Teas, Coffees and a small selection of nibbles will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own refreshments. Please email Dave at [davymcr@gmail.com](mailto:davymcr@gmail.com) to book a table.

**CONFIRMATION 2026.** Our classes will start soon for Confirmation later this year. **(No dates yet).** Parents of children, 13 years upwards, who wish to be Confirmed, please pick up an application form from the Parish Office or see Theresa Wells after 9am Mass on Sunday.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES AT ST PAUL'S AND ST FINBARR'S.** **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** is the **Feast of Corpus Christi.** Those children who attend St Paul's Church and have been preparing since early January will be making their **First Holy Communion** at the 9am Mass at St Paul's on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. Those children who attend St Finbarr's Church and who have also been preparing since early January will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11am Mass at St Finbarr's on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. Please pray for our FHC Children and their families.

**ST FINBARR'S CORNER. Fides Meetings in St Finbarr's May/June 2026:** Know your Faith - exploring the different understanding of the key teachings and practices between Protestant and Catholic Churches. You are all invited to attend our Fides Meetings which take place on a fortnightly basis on a Thursday. **Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May.** They will be led by Fr. Jamie who will share with us from his wealth of knowledge of the faith and scripture. Our meetings are from **7pm - 8:30pm** with teas and coffees from 6:40pm.

**Session Two: 21st May** Revisiting our understanding of the seven sacraments

**Session Three: 4th June** What is Catholic Marriage and holy orders? Often misunderstood in a secular western society.

**Session Four: 18th June** Reception into the Church - Baptism, Confirmation, RCIA

**May Devotion-** During the month of May which is dedicated to our blessed Mother Mary, we will be praying the rosary together as a church community **before Mass on a Sunday, starting at 10:30** please come along to honour Our Lady.

**ROSARY FOR LIFE.** Archbishop John Wilson is calling on all of us to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable facing growing threats to life: unborn children at risk of abortion, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, and the elderly and vulnerable. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit [rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife](http://rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife). **Pray the Rosary. Encounter Christ. Defend life.**

**SUMMER CELEBRATION OF ST. JUDE** will be on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May** in the grounds of the Carmelite Shrine of St. Jude, 34 Tanner Street, Faversham ME13 7JW. 11am Devotions with Anointing; 1.30pm Open Air Mass; 2.30pm Procession past the Shrine of St. Jude. All are welcome.

**MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE July 11th, At St George's Cathedral.** If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Dover, Aylesham

**THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE** Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on **Saturday 6th June 2026** from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Recollection Day will include Holy Mass, Talk, Hour of Mercy with Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Please call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

**'KNIT OR CROCHET FOR 90 MINS!'** **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1.45 for 2 - 4pm. St Mary's Church Parish Centre, Cannon Street, Dover CT16 1BY** Come and knit or crochet (2 x 45mins) to raise funds to provide scarves for charity. Get friends and family to sponsor you for a row or an overall amount. For sponsor forms email [dover@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:dover@streetpastors.org.uk)

**BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE** On **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> 2026** couples are invited to a day where they can **privately** explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married at **Our Lady of Good Counsel, 2 Lower Blackhouse Hill, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5LS** from **9.00am till 4.30pm**. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriages better and to improve their communication skills and learn how to raise issues without hurting each other. **There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple.** The unique selling point of this day is it is NOT marriage counselling - Marriage Care and Retrouvaille do a brilliant job at this! Refreshments will be provided but please bring a **packed lunch**. **Booking is essential.** To apply please contact: **Carole** on [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) or by phone on **07983 524 727**

<b>Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham</b> <b>‘Called to Bear Fruit’: Parish Renewal, 2026</b>		
<b>Mustard Seed Children’s Liturgy</b>	<b>First and Third Sundays 11am</b> <b>17<sup>th</sup> May &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover</b>
<b>St Finbarr’s Children’s Liturgy</b>	<b>First Sunday of the Month 11am</b>	<b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>St Jude’s Prayer Group</b>	<b>Third Monday 2pm – 3pm</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>‘Familia Una’ Adult Youth Group</b>	<b>Sundays 6pm</b>	<b>St. Paul’s Upper Hall, Dover</b>
<b>First Holy Communion Preparation</b>	<b>Saturdays 9.30am</b> <b>FINAL SESSION 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>First Holy Communion Preparation</b>	<b>Sundays 9.30am</b> <b>FINAL SESSION 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>First Holy Communion Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>9am St Paul’s, Dover</b> <b>11am St Finbarr’s Aylesham</b>
<b>Fides Prayer Group St Paul’s</b>	<b>Wednesdays 6:40pm for 7pm</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>Fides Prayer Group St Finbarr’s</b>	<b>Alternate Thursdays 6:40pm for 7pm</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>Holy Rosary</b>	<b>Thursdays 9.30am</b>	<b>St Paul’s, Dover</b>
<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Thursdays 10.30am</b>	<b>St Paul’s, Dover</b>
<b>Fire Marshall Training</b>	<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 7pm</b> <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 12noon</b>	<b>St Paul’s Dover</b> <b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>Parish Feast Day Family BBQ</b>	<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June (TBC)</b>	<b>St Paul’s, Dover</b>

## **CATECHISM**

### **"HOLY SPIRIT"**

From the beginning until "the fullness of time," The joint mission of the Father's Word and Spirit remains hidden, but it is at work. God's Spirit prepares for the time of the Messiah. Neither is fully revealed but both are already promised, to be watched for and welcomed at their manifestation. So, for this reason, when the Church reads the Old Testament, she searches there for what the Spirit, "who has spoken through the prophets," wants to tell us about Christ. By "prophets" the faith of the Church here understands all whom the Holy Spirit inspired in the composition of the sacred books, both of the Old and the New Testaments... The Word of God and his Breath are at the origin of the being and life of every creature: It belongs to the Holy Spirit to rule, sanctify, and animate creation, for he is God, consubstantial with the Father and the Son.... Power over life pertains to the Spirit, for being God he preserves creation in the Father through the Son. (CCC: 702-703)

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

**St Finbarr’s:** Charlotte, 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:** Keely Cookson, David Underdown, Sr. Jennifer Sanders, Mary Mee, Carol Manton, Oliver O’Connor, Helen Scopes, John Doyle, Maria Frost, Roz & Rob Pain, Rosa Mazzitelli, Roselene Hindle, Sr Rani Xavier, Thanima Jayan, Janice & Livra Fernandes, Catriona Stark, Mary Pressnell, Gaby Anaya Amor, Pat Evans, Shirley Lazarus, Shirley Jefford, Gail White, John & Joyce Nix, Bailey Turner, Peggy Merrell, Ryan Whittall, Jean Ann Dowle, Norman Woolhouse, Ted Peel, Christopher Browne, Angela, Alice Wilson, Angela Henbrey, Madison Woodall, Elisa Gomez Melero, Ann Tomalak, Emin Jain, Pat & Patricia Sherratt, Chris Roy.

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

**St Finbarr’s:** Isabella Coatman, Gwendoline Devereux, Paul Williams, Herbie Ruse, Patrick Cuff, Elizabeth Robinson, John Gerald Murphy, Arthur Cable, Patricia Morris, William Gunson, John Mountford.

**St Paul’s:** Nigel Jonathan Walker, Donato Corbo, 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.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	Church Spring Clean until 2pm
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am 10am 10.30am 11am	First Holy Communion Preparation Marian Procession Holy Rosary Mass for Holy Souls
	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	Mass for 75 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of Sebastian Mathew (Neenu Mathew)
	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	6.40pm for 7pm	Fides Prayer Group
PENTECOST SUNDAY	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	11am	Mass for People of the Parish Followed by Pentecost Celebrations
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
SAINT SIMON STOCK, PRIEST	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm	First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for People in Care Homes Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for NHS Workers
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Hilda & Alf Smith RIP (The Smith Family) Coffee and Tea after Mass Mass for People of the Parish Mustard Seeds Children's Liturgy Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una Youth Group in the Upper Hall
SAINT JOHN I, POPE AND MARTYR	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	10am 2pm	Mass for G/E Sheila Henneker (Kay) St Jude's Prayer Group in the Hall
SAINT DUNSTAN, BISHOP, AT CANTERBURY MEMORIAL	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	10am 7pm	Mass for G/E Sheila Henneker (Anne and Peter) Scouts Quiz Night in the hall
SAINT BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRIEST	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Kwaku Adusei RIP (Theresa) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall - Refreshments from 6.40pm
SAINT CHRISTOPHER OF MAGALLANES, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS.	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary Mass for Hungry of the World Bible Study
SAINT RITA OF CASCIA	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	10am	Mass for Cathy Huntley RIP (Kay)
	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Students Taking Examinations Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for G/E Sheila Henneker (Andrea)
PENTECOST SUNDAY	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	10AM 3pm 6pm	Mass for People of the Parish Mustard Seeds Children's Liturgy Followed by Pentecost Celebration in the hall Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una Youth Group in the Upper Hall

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

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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

## 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### First Reading

Acts 1:12-14

*'All with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.'*

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

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### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):1. 4. 7-8a. R13

*I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.*

*or: Alleluia.*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

*I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.*

*or: Alleluia.*

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,  
to enquire at his temple.

*I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.*

*or: Alleluia.*

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer me.  
Of you my heart has spoken,  
'Seek his face.'

*I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.*

*or: Alleluia.*

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### Second Reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

*'If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed.'*

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

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### Acclamation before the Gospel

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.

I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

**Alleluia.**

John 14:18

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### Gospel

John 17:1-11a

*'Father, glorify your son.'*

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

'I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

### 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.**