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Parish Giving: [www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/](http://www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/)

St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: [www.churchservices.tv/dover](http://www.churchservices.tv/dover)

<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoverstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** **YEAR A – 03<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2026**

**Missal P310 Order of the Mass P470**

**MARIAN ROSARY PROCESSION AT ST PAUL'S TODAY 3PM**  
**FOLLOWED BY TEA/COFFEE AND ICE CREAM IN THE PARISH HALL**

### **TODAY IS SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY**

On this National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse, we focus on victims/survivors of domestic abuse. In the UK, one in four women and one in seven men have been subjected to domestic abuse during their lifetime. In every parish there are victims and survivors of domestic abuse. We pray for all those who are living in fear in their own homes, subjected to physical psychological or spiritual.

#### **A message from Archbishop John Wilson:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On 3 May 2026, we will once again mark Safeguarding Sunday.

This important day reminds us that safeguarding is a responsibility shared by us all. It is part of the Christian duty we owe to one another; especially to those who are most vulnerable. It calls us to help ensure that every person is safe, valued, listened to, and treated with the dignity which is theirs in Christ.

Safeguarding is not simply a matter of policies or procedures, necessary though these are. It is also an expression of our deepest moral and spiritual responsibilities. It asks of us a spirit of attentiveness, compassion, and courage: a readiness to recognise harm, to respond wisely to concerns, and to stand alongside those who are in need of care and support.

In this way, safeguarding is closely bound to the Church's social teaching, which places at its heart the God-given dignity of every human person, and calls us to uphold the common good by protecting the weak, the vulnerable, and those whose voice may too easily go unheard. To safeguard others well is, therefore, not only a practical responsibility, but also a work of justice, solidarity, and Christian love.

Safeguarding Sunday gives us, as an Archdiocese, an opportunity to renew our commitment to building communities in which dignity is honoured, concerns are taken seriously, and help is always available. It is also a moment for each parish community to strengthen its resolve to listen well, to act wisely, and to care faithfully for one another. +John

#### **Our Parish Safeguarding representatives are:**

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's [ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:ayleshamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Keith Wells for St Paul's [doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:doversg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

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**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** Jesus promised his disciple one of the essential human needs, accommodation. Jesus says, "In my father's house, there are many rooms". These rooms when assigned to a person remains permanent. This is direct opposite of the type of ownership we experience on earth. So many people worry and struggle to have their own houses. That is very good, but we need to work better for homes that are indestructible. We hear of war situations or some forms of natural disasters where people must abandon their homes or even on some occasions watch homes destroyed. Wise then to search for a home that cannot be affected by anything. Jesus offers a solution to his followers so that they will no longer be worried about temporary houses but focus more on the permanent one in heaven. To secure this room, one needs to listen, follow and do the will of Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE/TEA AT ST PAUL'S** in the Hall after the 9am Mass every Sunday.

**NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2026/27.** There are still some envelopes to be collected. Please pick up from the back of church.

**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 <https://rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife> **Pray the Rosary. Encounter Christ. Defend life.**

**CHILDREN'S FILM EVENT.** Youth Mustards Seeds invite children aged 9–15 to a screening of “The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima” next **Saturday 9th of May** 1pm to 4pm at the Hall of St Paul Church. Refreshments will be provided.

**THANK YOU ALL** for your prayers, calls and visits while I have been unwell. It is a privilege to be part of this wonderful parish family & friends. Hope to see you soon. God Bless. Sheila Henneker.

**ST FINBARR'S CORNER.** 1. **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, from the 7th of May 2026. 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 One: 7th May** The Catechism of the Catholic Church viz a viz scripture.

**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

2. **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.

3. **Marian Procession** - Our Marian procession this year is scheduled for **Sunday 17th May** starting at 10am. We will take off from the church and process around the village carrying our lady's statue all the while praying and singing hymns. Those who participated last year will remember what a memorable event it was. Please come out in your numbers.

4. **Church Spring Cleaning** - It's that time of the year when we need to clear out and clean up in our church and its environs. We are calling on all who are able - young and not so young in the parish to come out en masse, bring your cleaning/gardening materials and equipment's along. It is scheduled for Saturday, the **16th May 2026 10am to 2pm.**

**CAFOD: STAND WITH SUDAN.** April marks **three years since the conflict began in the neighbouring country of Sudan.** Our brothers and sisters are facing what is officially **the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.** You may remember that parishes across England and Wales supported Sudan through emergency collections two years ago.

Violence in Sudan has expanded and now 13.6 million people have fled their homes. **Our Church partners remain supporting families in Sudan,** while many other charities have been forced to leave. This has become a terrible, long-term emergency. And yet news broadcasts report so little of the suffering. **Please Donate** at <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/stand-with-sudan>



**SUMMER CELEBRATION OF ST. JUDE** will be on **Saturday 30th 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.

**RETRouvaille MARRIAGE SUPPORT:** We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. **WIDOWED, SEPARATED AND DIVORCED Weekend 8th to 10th May 2026 at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, RH1 4SB.** To find out more: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel 0797 338 0443

**FOR ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES: ROOTED IN LOVE – ONLINE GROUP** Meets one hour a month on Zoom from 8.30pm to 9.30 pm. No travelling and no costs. It's free to attend, **May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26, December 10.** FFI contact Carole on [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) To obtain further information go to **Southwark MFL** webpage <https://rcaos.org.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life/>

**DEFEND NHS WORKERS & PATIENTS' RIGHTS.** The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has fallen, but a very similar assisted dying bill for England and Wales is expected to be introduced soon. Such a bill is expected to deny nursing homes, hospices, health and social care professionals who oppose all involvement in the suicide of patients on conscience grounds—including *NHS staff*—the right to 'opt out' completely from such involvement without facing penalties. In addition, doctors with years of clinical expertise who are opposed to assisted dying on ethical or religious grounds (including frontline GPs) could be forced to resign, depriving NHS patients of their services: For more information or to sign the petition scan the QR code above or go to <https://bioscentre.org/petition-on-conscience-protection/>



**FREE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE EVENTS FOR PARENTS AND MARRIED OR ENGAGED COUPLES** - For parents with teenagers Catholic CELEBRATE are offering free of charge a webinar **Raising teenagers in a Catholic family 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 8pm**. To book a place contact asap [info@celebratetrust.org](mailto:info@celebratetrust.org)  
**Growing in Faith Together** consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for: Married couples to enrich their friendship and love. · Engaged couples who want to continue exploring their faith together. The next course begins on **Tuesday May 5th at 8.30pm**. For further information and to book a place, please contact Carole on [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

<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>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>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>
<b>First Holy Communion Preparation</b>	<b>Sundays 9.30am</b>	<b>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>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>Marian Procession</b>	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10am</b>	<b>St Finbarr’s, Aylesham</b>
<b>Junior Youth Group</b> <b>“The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima”</b> <b>Film Show</b>	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 1pm – 4pm</b>	<b>St Paul’s Hall, Dover</b>

### **CATECHISM - WHO ARE REWARDED IN HEAVEN?**

Those are rewarded in heaven who have died in the state of grace and have been purified in purgatory, if necessary, from all venial sin and all debt of temporal punishment; they see God face to face and share forever in His glory and happiness. The happiness of heaven consists in the beatific vision and the consequent joy of the blessed. This happiness is not postponed to the end of the world but begins as soon as all venial sin and the temporal punishment for sin have been remitted. The body participates in this happiness only after the resurrection at the end of the world.



The blessed rejoice in the company of Our Saviour, the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the angels and saints, and the friends they knew on earth who have attained the reward of eternal life. There is no sorrow or pain in heaven; the joy is complete, though unequal, throughout all eternity. (Baltimore Catechism. No 186)

**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:** Joan Phelan, John Donnachie, Frank Rush, Terence Edmund, William Clark, Arthur Duck, Peter Mulligan.

**St Paul’s:** Helen Capon, Theresa (Toni) Walker, Stella Broom, May Gertrude Holder, Charles (Jimmy) Green, Pat Ward, Modesta Mercedes Blummers, Margaret Belsoy, Arthur John Evans, Bob MacDougal, John Doyle, Maria Hilton, Eric Leonard Bowden, Margaret Henneker, Mabel Gill, Nora Ryan, Alex Easton, Tony McGurk, Frederick Walter Hodgson.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>9.30am 11am</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation Mass for Grandson Ronnie (Andrew McTaggart)</b>
	<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Holy Souls</b>
	<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Fides Prayer Group</b>
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9.30am 11am</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation Mass for Sick Members of the Parish</b>
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
<b>SAINT ATHANASIUS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</b>	<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 5pm 6pm</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Cathy Huntley RIP (Moya) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Exam Times (Bogden, Renata &amp; Hanna)</b>
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>9am 11am 3pm 6pm</b>	<b>Mass for Theresa Wells Birthday (Marie) Coffee and Tea after Mass Mass for Cathy Ryan RIP (Sheila) Mustard Seeds Children's Liturgy Marian Rosary Procession Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una Youth Group in the Upper Hall</b>
<b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Family &amp; Friends (Sheila)</b>
	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for Dawn Wells RIP (Keith &amp; Theresa)</b>
<b>SAINT JOHN PAINE, PRIEST AND MARTYR</b>	<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10am 5.30pm 7pm</b>	<b>Mass for Holy Souls Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall - Refreshments from 6.40pm</b>
	<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Rosary Ordinariate Mass for Persecuted Christians Bible Study</b>
	<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass for The Holy Land</b>
	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9.30am 10am 1pm 5pm 6pm</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for G/E Alex Junior Youth Group Film Show in the Hall Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Angelo Rodrigues RIP (Inocencia Freitas)</b>
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9am 11am 3pm 6pm</b>	<b>Mass for The Spiritan Mission Coffee and Tea after Mass Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert) Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Faith and Life Sessions for Familia Una Youth Group in the Upper Hall</b>

**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

## 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

*'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.'*

### First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

*'They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit.'*

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R22

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;  
for praise is fitting from the upright.

Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp;  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

The word of the LORD is upright,  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The LORD loves justice and right,  
and his merciful love fills the earth.

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their soul from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

*May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

*or: Alleluia.*

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Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

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### Acclamation before the Gospel

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Alleluia.**

John 14:6

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### Gospel

John 14: 1-12

*'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'*

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.'

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

### **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.**