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Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoversstfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

26th JULY 2026

Missal **P639** Order of the Mass **P470**

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

PRIEST CORNER:

THE MEDAILLE TRUST AND CARITAS SOUTHWARK will be visiting St Paul's on **Saturday 1st August, from 3.30pm to 6pm**, as part of their Archdiocesan Arts Roadshow, which is dedicated to raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking. The Medaille Trust is one of the UK's leading providers of support for survivors of modern slavery, and they run safe houses and community projects across the country. This event at St Paul's will see the parish hall transformed into an exhibition space, displaying artwork created by survivors of modern slavery. Alongside this exhibition, there will be a talk and an opportunity for discussion, with the aim of helping parishioners better understand the realities of exploitation in the modern world. For more information, please email Caritas Southwark at caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk. Website <https://caritas.rcaos.org.uk/>



FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC is Vicar Provincial and Vocation Director for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. **We are privileged to have Fr. Donald visit St Paul's on Tuesday 18th August at 7pm to speak about The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion.** He is the author of 25 books, including Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father. He is a well-known conference speaker on Divine Mercy, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Joseph, and speaks passionately about these topics in his moving conversion story. He leads pilgrimages to Catholic shrines around the world and resides at the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville, Ohio. **All are welcome to attend this very special occasion.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



When we pray, what do we pray for? The greatest gift is not what we often think and pray for. Only one point of prayer can help to attain even those not prayed for. Solomon prayed for wisdom and it was given and every other thing in his life followed. Nothing in life can be exchanged to give value more than wisdom. In the gospel, it is wisdom that will make a person who finds a treasure to sell all he owns to purchase the treasure or make a fisherman not to give up when his nets gather all types of fish but calmly separates the good from the bad and then takes the good home. With the wisdom from God, we have found our faith despite all the distractions of the world, all the challenges and persecution of every kind. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Let us hold unto our faith as it is the sure way to find Jesus and remain in his presence all on the days of our life.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 2026

Today the world-wide church celebrates the above event. Pope Leo 14th has declared this year's theme as 'I will never forget you' (Isaiah 49:15). Having celebrated all grandparents in the parish in July 2025, this year we concentrate on all our parishioners who are 90 years old or older or who will be 90 at some point later this year. We celebrated this group for the first time in July 2024. Celebrations for 2026 will again follow the same format; 11am Mass, St Paul's, attended by invited nonagenarian parishioners and their family members followed immediately afterwards by a social with strawberries, ice cream, jelly and celebratory cake etc. The homily based on the Pope's chosen theme will be preached at all 3 Masses at St Paul's and again at the 11am Mass at St Finbarr's on the 2nd August. Deacon Barry.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Roselene Mary Hindle who passed away recently. We also pray for her husband Peter and family in their loss. Roselene's funeral service will take place on **Friday 7th August 2026** at Barham Crematorium at 12noon. Also **Robert Yore**, formally from Aylesham, who has passed away in Australia. We pray for his family during this difficult time. May Roselene and Robert Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory, Amen.

VOICES OF DOVER FOODBANK CONCERT this Sunday 26th July 7pm St Paul's Church. Entry by donation of 3 items for Foodbank on the door. Most wanted items: Cuppa Soups, UHT Milk, Instant Rice, Fruit Juice (UHT), Toilet Rolls, Noodles, Tinned Spaghetti, James & Spreads, Instant Mash, Tinned Soup, Pasta Sauces, Tinned Beans, Tinned Vegetables, Pasta in Sauce.

NEW FIRE ASSEMBLY POINT – ST PAUL'S DOVER

Following the recent Fire Marshalling Training at St Paul's a new Fire Assembly Point has been identified that those evacuating must go to should a fire break out in the church, sacristy and upper and lower church halls and attached outbuildings. The new Fire Assembly is located at the corner of Maison Dieu Road and Taswell Street some 80 yards to the left of the church as you leave by the main front door. When the fire alarm sounds and / or the priest saying Mass tells everyone to leave the church etc, then everyone must leave immediately via the nearest fire exist and go straight away to the corner of Maison Dieu Road and Taswell Street and wait there for instructions or go straight home. The priest will announce when parishioners can go back in the building. If the fire is in the Priest House those exiting church must go right towards the Health Centre, not left past the fire in the Priests' House.

AT ST FINBARR'S the fire assembly point is the church car park.

REQUESTING MASS FOR A PARTICULAR INTENTION

It is a long-established and laudable Catholic custom to ask that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Every Mass is offered for the glory of God and the salvation of the world; nevertheless, the priest may also offer the Mass for a specific intention. In this parish, Mass intentions are usually published in the newsletter. Anyone may request that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Masses are commonly offered for the welfare of an individual or family, in thanksgiving, for a special need, or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. When requesting a Mass, it is customary to make an offering as a sign of one's particular participation in the offering of the Mass and in support of the Church's ministry. This offering is not a payment for the Mass, and no one is obliged to make one. The suggested offering is £10; some give less, some give more, and some are unable to give anything. Please never feel that a Mass cannot be offered for your intention because of financial difficulty. The grace of the Mass is never bought or sold. Its true price has already been paid for us in the saving death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Mass intention envelopes and request forms are available at the entrance to the church.

FATHER JOHN PANARIO. Fr John's last Sunday morning Mass as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Dover will take place on **Sunday 30th August**. There will be a buffet lunch in Our Lady's Hall after the 10.30am Mass. All are welcome to attend. If you wish to donate towards a gift for Fr John please put in an envelope clearly marked '**For Fr Panario Collection**' and place in the offertory collection here at St Paul's or St Finbarr's or put through the door of the presbytery at St Paul's. Anyone who would like to bring food and/or help with the buffet at Our Lady's on the day please speak to Pauline 07990 982552. Father Andrew Bishop will be taking over as Parish Priest of Our Lady's in September. Fr. John will be living in Dover so will not be far away.

ST PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY, SUMMER BREAK The last study, before the summer break, is **Thursday 30th July**. The group will reconvene on **Thursday 10th September**.

ST PAUL'S FIDES PRAYER GROUP will be taking a break for the summer until after the new school term commences in September. Date to be confirmed.

MUSTARD SEEDS Children's Liturgy at St Paul's is taking a break over the summer. We will be back **Sunday 6th September** at 11am Mass.

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS. St Joseph's School, Aylesham are looking for Foundation Governors. If anyone is interested, please contact Philip by email Philip.Smye-Rumsby@st-josephs-aylesham.kcsp.org.uk

CONFIRMATION 2026. Sunday 22nd November at 11am Mass. Parents of children, 13 years upwards, who wish to be confirmed, please pick up an application form either from the Parish Office or from Theresa Wells after 9am Mass on Sunday or Anne Rowe at St. Finbarr's. We want to start our Confirmation Classes soon.

FUNDRAISING FOR DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE. From Bishop Paul. One of the trustees of our Lourdes pilgrimage has been doing a sponsored walk to raise money to help disabled pilgrims to go to Lourdes. He will be in parts of Kent and SE London this week. If you would be willing to contribute, he has a fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/page/calourdes125sw

COME TO THE CELEBRATE FESTIVAL - A FAITH-FILLED EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY.

Runs from 15-19 August, at Worth School, West Sussex. Hear inspiring speakers such as Fr Roberto Pasolini (Preacher to the Pope), David Wells and Johannes Hartl, experience beautiful masses, pray in Worth Abbey, fun and formation for children and young people aged 3-24 each day of the festival, and relax in the beautiful Sussex countryside. Camp in our festival field or stay in school accommodation. Weekend tickets also available.

For more information visit www.celebratefestival.org

ENJOYING GOD'S CREATION: A summer retreat day at **Minster Abbey on August 29th** led by Eddie Gilmore.
Contact: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

THE GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER FOR MARRIED AND ENGAGED COUPLES is an ONLINE course, which has been developed in collaboration with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team, the Agency for Evangelisation and Sycamore, a programme about the Catholic faith by Fr Stephen Wang, Bishop-Elect of Arundel and Brighton. **Save the dates: September 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th.** 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 September 8th at 8.30pm. For further information and to book a place, please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal, 2026		
Mustard Seed Youth Prayer Warriors Holy Rosary	Saturdays 3pm	St Paul's, Dover
Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy	First and Third Sundays 11am Will resume on 6th September	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Finbarr's Children's Liturgy	Sunday 11am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
St Jude's Prayer Group	Third Monday 2pm – 3pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Sundays 6pm Will resume in September	St. Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Paul's	Wednesdays 6:40pm for 7pm Will resume in September	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Holy Rosary	Thursdays 9.30am	St Paul's, Dover
Bible Study	Thursdays 10.30am	St Paul's, Dover

CATECHISM –

What is meant by the Redemption?

By the Redemption is meant that Jesus Christ, as the Redeemer of the whole human race, offered His sufferings and death to God as a fitting sacrifice in satisfaction for the sins of men, and regained for them the right to be children of God and heirs of heaven. Satisfaction is compensation for an offense or injury against another. A redeemer is one who pays a price to regain something that has been lost or given up. No creature could, of himself, make adequate satisfaction for sin, which offends the infinite majesty of God. Every creature is finite and, as such, is unable to make infinite satisfaction. Although God wished all to be saved, and although Christ died for all, yet only those to whom the merits of His Passion are applied will benefit by His death. The death of Christ was a sacrifice of infinite merit and satisfaction, by which man was redeemed. Christ was both priest and victim in the sacrifice whereby He redeemed us. As priest He offered His Passion and death to God for us, and as victim He suffered and died. (Baltimore Catechism)

Please Pray for those who are unwell:

St Finbarr's: Charlotte, 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: Sheila Henneker, Keely Cookson, David Underdown, Sr. Jennifer Sanders, Carol Manton, Oliver O'Connor, Helen Scopes, John Doyle, Maria Frost, Roz & Rob Pain, Rosa Mazzitelli, 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: Christine Burgess, Aileen Hayes, Kitty Phelan, Mary Merrin, Val Deary.

St Paul's: Ronald Barrings, June Margaret Giordani, Jenny Gartland, Dave McClelland, Fr Patrick Healion, Kathleen Saunders, James Phoenix, Margaret Mary Heyes, Neville Walton Cox, Dorothy Hall, Arry Petch, John Brennan, Trudy Thacker, Malcolm Warner, Ann Arthur, Anthony Casey, Sherry Carney, Ena Samitowska, Mike McCarthy, Annie Wilson, John Tollan, Iris Yvonne Guy, William George Precious.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 26 th July	11am	Mass for Jean Cable RIP (Audrey)
SAINTS MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS	Wednesday 29 th July	10am	Mass for People of the Parish
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 2 nd August	11am	Mass for Hannah Wall 'F'
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE, FEAST	Saturday 25 th July	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St. Edmund's Chapel for Children in Care Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Mary & Robert Golding RIP (Colin)
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 26 th July	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Augustine Joseph (Manju) Coffee after Mass Mass for Roselene Mary Hindle RIP (Peter) CELEBRATING 90-YEAR-OLDS AND OVER Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
	Monday 27 th July	10am	Mass for Sr. Margaret Canny RIP (Colin)
	Tuesday 28 th July	10am	Mass for Father Godwin Alkali 8 th Priestly Anniversary
SAINTS MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS	Wednesday 29 th July	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Fr Leo Illah's Birthday Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm
SAINT PETER CHRYSOLOGUS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.	Thursday 30 th July	9.30am 10am 10.30am	Holy Rosary EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE Bible Study
SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST	Friday 31 st July	10am	Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert)
SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	Saturday 1 st August	10am 3.30pm 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Theresa (Sheila) THE MEDAILLE TRUST & CARITAS SOUTHWARK ROADSHOW IN THE PARISH HALL Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for The Work of The Medaille Trust & Caritas Southwark
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 2 nd August	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Parishioners (Sheila) Coffee after Mass Mass for G/E Jean Dowle & Family Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT EMAIL

Stephen Carton for St Finbarr's ayleshamsg2@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.
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Readings for Sunday

26th July 2026

First reading

1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12 ·

‘You have asked for yourself understanding.’

In those days: The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):57, 72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130. R 97a

O LORD, how I love your law!

You, O LORD, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

O LORD, how I love your law!

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

O LORD, how I love your law!

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

O LORD, how I love your law!

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

O LORD, how I love your law!

Second reading

Romans 8:28-30 ·

‘He predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.’

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

‘He sells all that he has and buys that field.’

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to him, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

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.