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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>

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

23rd August 2026

Missal **P655** Order of the Mass **P470**

GOSPEL REFLECTION: 21st Sunday In Ordinary Time

Many of us have friends but we do not even know who they are. This happens mainly among the younger generation who have loads of friends in different social media platforms but do not really know who they are.



To claim a person to be your friend you ought to know the person very well. Jesus has gotten groups of friends, they walk around together, eat together, play together and do the mission of Jesus together. But who is Jesus? To make their friendship more concrete, they needed to know Jesus better. For Jesus he knows each so well and not like us with so many friends but do not know any of them well. That brought about the question that Jesus asked; who do people say I

am, who do you say I am? To this question Peter boldly answered. Truly it was not just the intellect that made Peter to know but was revealed to him by God. Suppose if Jesus ask the same question individually today, who is Jesus to you? We can only enjoy Jesus if we understand him well and we can only understand if we maintain our faith in him. May Jesus help us understand his presences in all circumstances of our lives.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Abina Armstrong who has passed away. Abina's Requiem Mass will take place at St Paul's on **Wednesday 2nd September at 10am**. Also, Maureen Clunas who died on 15th August, funeral details to follow. May Abina and Maureen Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory, Amen.

UNVEILING OF REFURBISHED CRUCIFIX, ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday 14th September 2026 is the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. This year it will be celebrated with a special Mass presided over by our Parish Priest, Fr Gabriel Onoyima, who will unveil and bless the refurbished large crucifix located at the front of the church. The Mass is at 6pm followed immediately by a celebratory social in the hall including a talk on the history of the crucifix and its refurbishment given by Deacon Barry and Paul Smye-Rumsby & Chris Quinn respectively. Deacon Barry.

HISTORY OF THE CRUCIFIX OUTSIDE ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Calling all parishioners especially long-term ones! We are trying to build a comprehensive time line from when the crucifix was first erected to the current day. We are also trying to identify the name of the artist who carved the Christ figure. CAN YOU HELP! Sight of any photos of the crucifix prior to 1959 would be very welcome. Please have a look in old photo albums or shoe boxes for photos taken intentionally of the crucifix or in which the crucifix appears in the background. These will help with dating. If you have any such photos and / or suggestions as to the identity of the wood carver please contact Deacon Barry ASAP.

FAMILIA UNA will be having a **sponsored walk from Deal to Dover on Saturday 26th September** to raise funds to send young people to World Youth Day 2027 in South Korea. If you would like to take part in this sponsored walk or sponsor someone, please contact Jack on 07710 430893 or Christina on 07587 218374. Lifts will be available. Any donations gratefully received with thanks.

A REMINDER. We have had a request from our neighbours in the Dour House next door to St. Paul's that people attending Mass or events at the church or in the hall **do not park on the access road between the church and the Dour House.** There have been incidents where some people have parked directly outside one of the resident's window. We have also had complaints of people being noisy when they leave the parish hall and congregating on the access road. Again, this is not permitted. Please move off the access road as quickly as possible. If you need to gather, you may do so in front of the church. Please be considerate of our neighbours. Thank you.

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 exit 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.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DOVER OUTREACH CENTRE The Dover Outreach homeless drop-in centre is currently in urgent need of good-quality small and medium men's T-shirts. They would also be very grateful for donations of new, unopened men's socks and underwear (pants), including any unwanted gifts. If you are able to help, your donation would be greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to those who need it most. Thank you for your support. Items can be left in either church, or contact Carina Jarvie. A Box will be left at the back of the churches.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER For the next few weeks, the newsletter will be printed on a Thursday. All articles for inclusion must be received by Wednesday of that week. Thank you.

FATHER JOHN PANARIO Fr John's last Sunday morning Mass as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Dover will take place **Next 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. You can also donate through the CollecTins or our website <https://givealittle.co/c/aca9710e-8264-4d9e-a6b1-1d21377067a5>. 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.

COLLECTIONS FOR JULY: Cash & CollecTin £3362.08; Bankers Orders £3407.00; Second Collections: Stella Maris £336.60; Thank you for your generosity.

ST PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY, SUMMER BREAK 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. **Confirmation Classes will start on Saturday September 12th at 10.30am** in the Upper Room in St. Paul's Hall.

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

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on WhatsApp 07957 594646 for more information. Coaches from Slough, Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

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 Will resume on 10th September	St Paul’s, Dover
Mass & Unveiling of the Crucifix	Monday 14th September 6pm	St Paul’s, Dover
Familia Una Sponsored Walk	Saturday 26th September	Deal to Dover

CATECHISM –

THE DESIRE FOR GOD

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for: The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator. In many ways, throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behaviour: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, and so forth. These forms of religious expression, despite the ambiguities they often bring with them, are so universal that one may well call man a religious being: From one ancestor (God) made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "in him we live and move and have our being. (CCC 27 & 28)

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, 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: Antony Deverson, Judy West, John Gerard Kirwan, Iris Sarah Doyle

St Paul’s: Mona Richardson, Charlotte Hood, Norah Seary, Douglas Fletcher, Samuel Patrick Pitts, Louise Giordani, Alice Fall, Frederick William Millar, Mary Morris, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O’Connor, Frederik Marples, Majorie Wells, Bill Doolin, Louise King, Esther Mee, Terry Salter, Marie Donovan, Sr. Veronica Clemow, James O’Rourke, Charles Frederick Sayers

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 23 rd August	11am	Mass for The People of St Finbarr's
BLESSED DOMINIC OF THE MOTHER OF GOD	Wednesday 26 th August	10am	Mass for Peace in Ukraine & Russia (Tommy)
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 30 th August	11am	Mass for Dr & Mrs F.F.O. Abudu (Agnes)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 22 nd August	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for The Chapel Trustees Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for The Sick of the Parish
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 23 rd August	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for The People of St Paul's Coffee after Mass Mass for The Youth of the Parish Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet
SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE	Monday 24 th August	10am	Mass for Barbara (Sheila)
SAINT LOUIS OR SAINT JOSEPH OF CALASANZ	Tuesday 25 th August	10am	Mass for Marilyn (Sheila)
BLESSED DOMINIC OF THE MOTHER OF GOD	Wednesday 26 th August	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Billy (Sheila) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm
SAINT MONICA	Thursday 27 th August	9.30am 10am	Holy Rosary Mass for Abina Armstrong RIP (Sheila)
SAINT AUGUSTINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	Friday 28 th August	10am	Mass for Jean MacKenzie (Robert)
THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST	Saturday 29 th August	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for G/E Theresa Gordon Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Our Parish Schools – Staff & Students Returning for the New Academic Year
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 30 th August	9am 11am 3pm	Mass for Fr John (Sheila) Coffee after Mass Mass for Penny Hill RIP (Paul SR) 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 Wednesday 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

23rd August 2026

First reading

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23 ·

'I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.'

Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 138(137):1-2a, 3, 6, 8bc. R8bc

**O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

I thank you, LORD, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.

**O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.

**O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

The LORD is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

**O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

Second reading

Romans 11:33-36 ·

'From him and through him and to him are all things.'

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.'

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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.