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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>

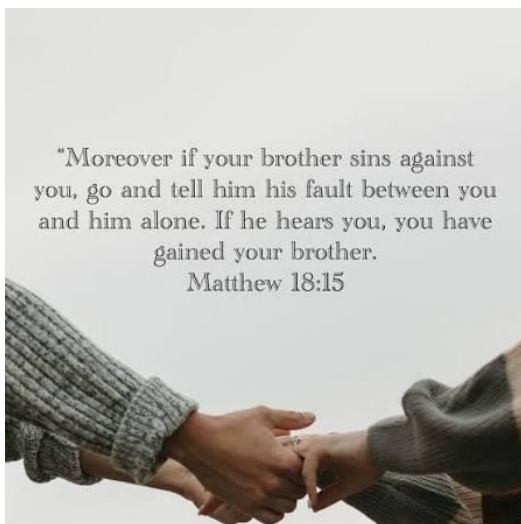
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

6th September 2026

Missal P663 Order of the Mass P470

WELCOME BACK TO FATHER GABRIEL AFTER HIS HOLIDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION: 23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time



"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.
Matthew 18:15

In many instances, disputes are not settled by fighting rather by honest discussion. Any peace gained without meaningful discussion often do not last or remain peaceful. It becomes like quenched fire with the ember remaining very active. Jesus in the gospel reminds us that in times of conflicts that is a need for dialogue. We do not have all the stories about our conflicts. It is only when we hear the other side of the story, how the other person feels that we can understand the true reflection of the situation. Reconciliation starts with the ability to say, let us talk about it. As Jesus puts it, it is only when both of you cannot resolve the differences that a third party is invited and if still difficult, the community gets involved. In all these, there are three important factors; Listening, patience and forgiveness. When these three work together, solution can be achieved as what divides us is always less than what unite. Have we tried it, if not let us be the one to make the move.

UNVEILING OF REFURBISHED CRUCIFIX, ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Monday 14th September 2026 is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy 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, Paul Smye-Rumsby & Chris Quinn. Deacon Barry.

PLEASE PRAY FOR MAUREEN CLUNAS who has passed away. Maureen's funeral will take place on **Thursday 17th September at 12noon** in St Paul's. May Maureen Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory, Amen.

URGENT: STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE

The vote on assisted suicide is on 11th September. Please take action now. Click on the link to email your MP or pick up a postcard from the back of church, compete and put in the post.

https://righttolife.org.uk/sept11vote?utm_source=righttolife.org.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=sept11vote&utm_content=menu

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.

FR JOHN PANARIO, PARISH OF OUR LADY OF DOVER, BUCKLAND

Nearly 150 people in total, drawn from the parish of Our Lady of Dover and other parishes in the Dover Deanery, attended last Sunday's 10.30am Mass in the parish church or the social that took place immediately afterwards in the church hall. Parishioners said a huge heart felt thank you to Fr John as he said his last Sunday Mass as parish priest. He said his first Mass in that role in May 1988. The theme of Fr John's homily linked the Sunday's readings and gospel; 'Life doesn't always turn out as you expect'. There are disappointments but if we make the best of them they can be sacrificial and united to Christ's. During the post Mass social Grainne Parsons, parishioner and Head Teacher of St Edmund's Catholic School, Dover, spoke of the significant and continual contributions that Fr John had made to the parish over the last 38 years along with highlighting his personal qualities and what his ministry had meant to the congregation. There followed a speech given by Deacon Barry on behalf of the Dover Deanery Clergy i.e. priests and deacons. Especially noted were the specific contributions Fr John had made in the various clerical roles and responsibilities he had held and fulfilled over the same 38 years. A vision of the future, in terms of God working with and through Fr John, was shared. It was confirmed repeatedly that Fr John is **NOT** retiring as a priest but 'stepping down' from the role of parish priest to enable him to 'step up and out' into the future in faith and hope according to God's will and purpose for him. Gifts were given, toasts made, cake cut, photos taken, prayers said and those present received a blessing by Fr John. He expressed his thanks to all parishioners who over the years he had had the privilege of serving as parish priest. Deacon Barry.



CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN DOVER; OPEN MEETING, 7PM THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER, ST PAUL'S CHURCH HALL Parishioners are cordially invited to the meeting to hear about the latest developments that CTiD are involved with and to be updated by Stuart Walker, Coordinator, Dover Street Pastors on this organisation's new initiatives and successes. All welcome. Deacon Barry.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER All articles must be received by **Wednesday** of that week. Thank you.

ST PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY The group will reconvene on **Thursday 10th September**.

ST PAUL'S FIDES PRAYER GROUP will reconvene on **Wednesday 16th September** 6.40 for 7pm.

MUSTARD SEEDS Children's Liturgy will be back **today Sunday 6th September** at 11am Mass.

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 12th September at 10.30am** in the Upper Room in St. Paul's Hall.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend 13th September for the Catholic Education Service.

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, HYTHE, KENT Invites you to a series of talks by Rev. Deacon Dr. Gehad Homsey at the Parish Hall, Fr Daly's Hall, 2 Lower Blackhouse Hill, Corner of Mill Road, Hythe, CT21 5LS, on **Tuesday 15th September at 7.00 pm**: ISLAM (part 2) What it means. What is Sharia Law? Men... Women... Shia... Sunni Apostasy... Abrogation... Blasphemy... Jihad... Violence... Tolerance... Jesus... Mary... Crucifixion or cruci-fiction... etc. All welcome. Deacon Gehad.

HOW DO WE PRAY? HOW DO WE BUILD A BETTER, MORE FULFILLING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? You are warmly invited to join an experiential programme called *Teach Me to Pray* facilitated by *Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission*. The programme will be **online** on Tuesdays, starting **6th October from 7pm to 8.15pm**. Following 4 online sessions there is an invitation to conclude the programme with an in-person Reflection Day in a diocesan Retreat Centre on 5th or 12th December. There is no commitment to attend all sessions – join us whenever you can. **For details/ to sign up** see <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tnpn4hqj> or email for further information spirituality@rcaos.org.uk

ROOTED IN LOVE is an opportunity for engaged and married couples to meet for one hour, once a month on Zoom. In each session we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love, rooted in Christ. We meet on the following **Thursdays: 24th September at 8.30pm, 22 October at 8.30pm, 26 November at 8.30pm, 10 December at 8.30pm**. Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information

DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS On behalf of the Archbishop, we invite you to attend our twelfth annual **Diocesan Day for Catechists on Saturday 3 October 2026** at the Amigo Hall and St George's Cathedral, Southwark, SE1 6HU. This Day is for all the catechists of the diocese, including those involved in Liturgy of the Word for Children and the RCIA process. Booking and further details here - <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2026>. The theme is year is: Truth and Beauty in Catechesis in the Age of AI.



FRANCIS 800 - DAY OF TALKS AND REFLECTION AT ST THOMAS'S CHURCH HALL, CANTERBURY

Saturday 3rd October 2026 10am-3pm, free of charge. Full details, schedule and registration on weblink

<https://Francis800-Canterbury.eventbrite.co.uk> or phone 07803 612556 - Helen Natrass

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK will be holding their annual service for those that have been harmed by abuse on the **30th September 2026, at 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral**. The service will be lead by Archbishop John Wilson and is an opportunity for the archdiocese community to express their solidarity and compassion to those that have been hurt by abuse and our commitment to building safe environments for all. Please attend if you are able.

Parish of the Good Shepherd Dover and Aylesham 'Called to Bear Fruit': Parish Renewal, 2026		
Mustard Seed Youth Prayer Warriors Holy Rosary	Saturday 3pm	St Paul's, Dover
Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy	First and Third Sundays 11am 6 th & 20 th September	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Finbarr's Children's Liturgy	Sunday 11am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Confirmation Classes	Saturday 10.30am 12 th September	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Third Monday 2pm – 3pm 21 st September	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Sundays 6pm 6 th September	St. Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Paul's	Wednesdays 6:40pm for 7pm 16 th September	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Holy Rosary	Thursdays 9.30am	St Paul's, Dover
Bible Study	Thursdays 10.30am 10 th September	St Paul's, Dover
Mass & Unveiling of the Crucifix	Monday 14 th September 6pm	St Paul's, Dover
Familia Una Sponsored Walk	Saturday 26 th September	Deal to Dover

CATECHISM –

WHAT IS CONTRITION?



Contrition is sincere sorrow for having offended God, and hatred for the sins we have committed, with a firm purpose of sinning no more. It is unreasonable to expect a person to pardon us for any offense unless we are sincerely sorry for the act that has given offense and are firmly determined not to repeat the act in the future. By sin we offend and insult God. Unless we are sincerely sorry for our sins and are firmly resolved not to commit them again, we cannot reasonably expect God to forgive us. "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unjust man his thoughts and let him return to the Lord; and he will have mercy on him: and to our God; for he is bountiful to forgive" (Isaiah 55:7). (Baltimore Catechism 388)

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, Richard Brooks.

St Paul's: Yvonne O'Reagan, 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: Lord Robert Leslie Eustace Maude Hawarden, Margaret Doreen Davis, Shelagh Margaret Rose

St Paul's: Bernard Smye-Rumsby, Susan Catherine Bell, Eileen Mary Tumber, 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.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 6th September	11am	Mass for Students, Parents, Guardians and Faculty of St Joseph's Primary School Aylesham (Tommy)
	Wednesday 9th September	10am	Mass for All Volunteers of St Finbarr's (Agnes)
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 13th September	11am	Mass for New Headship of Hester-Seager Fleming (Fran) Thanksgiving Blessing for Ekene Family
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OR SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA	Saturday 5th September	10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Roberto Gismondi RIP (Angelina) Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Mary Elizabeth Stokes 'F'
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 6th September	9am 11am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Jesus Crave Snr RIP (Bong) Coffee after Mass Mass for 40th Wedding Anniversary for Parents of Cristina Soldeville Mustard Seed Children's Liturgy in the Upper Hall Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Familia Una with an Alpha session
	Monday 7th September	10am	Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life
THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Tuesday 8th September	10am	Mass for Elizabeth Compton 'F'
SAINT PETER CLAVER, PRIEST.	Wednesday 9th September	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Fr David Maher RIP (Colin) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm
	Thursday 10th September	9.30am 10am	Holy Rosary Mass for G/E Gordon (Carina) Followed by Bible Study
SAINT AMBROSE BARLOW, PRIEST AND MARTYR	Friday 11th September	10am	Mass for Fr Mychal Judge RIP & Victims of 9/11 Attack in New York in 2001 (Colin)
THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY OR SAINT EANSWYTHE OF FOLKESTONE	Saturday 12th September	10am 10.30am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Tim & Bernard Smye-Rumsby RIP (Paul) Confirmation Class in the Upper Hall Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Volunteers at St Paul's
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 13th September	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for People of the Parish Coffee after Mass Mass for Carers of the Sick at Home or in Hospital Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet Familia Una with an Alpha session

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 6th September 2026

First reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

‘If you do not speak to warn the wicked, his blood I will require at your hand.’

Thus says the Lord: ‘So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts.’

Or Alleluia

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts.’

Or Alleluia

O come; let us bow and bend low.

Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts.’

Or Alleluia

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts.’

Or Alleluia

Second Reading

Romans 13: 8-10

‘Love is the fulfilling of the law.’

Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet’, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

God was Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Alleluia.

2 Corinthians 5:19

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

‘If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.’

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.