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Parish Giving: www.Parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/giving/
St Paul's Mass Live Streaming: www.churchservices.tv/dover
<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsdoversfinbarrsayle7499/streams>

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

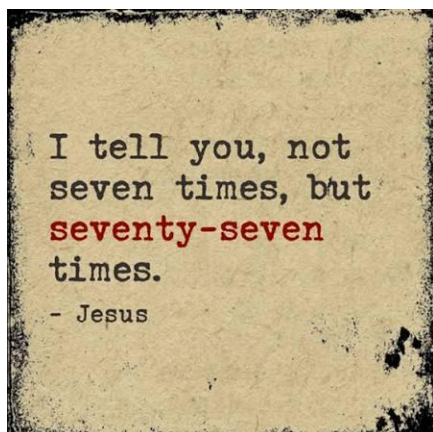
13th September 2026

Missal **P667** Order of the Mass **P470**

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE

CELEBRATING EDUCATION SUNDAY AT ST FINBARR'S

GOSPEL REFLECTION: 24th Sunday In Ordinary Time



The topic of forgiveness is one of the most difficult virtues. This can be observed from the way Peter asked Jesus about forgiveness; do we forgive seven times? Peter thought that by forgiving seven times that he has attained perfection, but Jesus has a different idea what forgiveness means. Peter was faced with the challenge of counting how many times he must forgive when Jesus gave him the arithmetic formula of forgiveness. Jesus did not wish to tell him that he must always forgive rather the figure given was symbolic which implies that forgiveness has no end. Peter may be more generous than some of us by opting for seven times as we do not often ask Jesus how many times we must forgive rather, we take the judgment on our own. We may not have forgiven up to seven times before getting fed up. The book of Ecclesiastes also emphasised the need for forgiveness.

Jesus challenges us today to be conscious that God is not tired of forgiving us hence we should make efforts to let go, forgive, reconcile and begin again to love. Is forgiving easy? No. Is it possible? Yes. Let us trust Jesus and start practicing forgiveness without counting so that we will grow in virtue and blessings.

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.

THE 2ND COLLECTION TODAY IS FOR THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE (CES) who acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh governments, sharing the aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice. Catholic schools makeup 10% of the national total of maintained schools. There are over 2,000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England and Wales educating over 800,000 students. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all of the schools in the country. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas. Please give what you can to support Catholic Education.

EDUCATION SUNDAY AT ST FINBARR'S. On Sunday **13th September**, we will be celebrating Education Sunday at St Finbarr's. To mark this special occasion, we warmly invite all children and young people to come to Mass wearing their school jumper, cardigan, blazer, or uniform, as we give thanks for our schools, teachers, and all involved in education. We look forward to celebrating with you - Mrs Hunt

SECOND COLLECTION Next weekend **20th September** there is a **2nd collection for Evangelii Gaudium (Home Mission) Sunday**. This collection provides the bishops of England and Wales with resources to support Home Mission, the spread of the gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of parish evangelization.

FIRST NATIONAL MASS COUNT Next Sunday **20th September** is the **First National Mass Count**, and on the following three Sundays: **27th September, 4th October, 11th October and 18th October**. Will those who normally count please note.

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.

RCIA COURSE The next RCIA Course will start at **7.00 p.m.** On **Wednesday 14th October** in the Upper Hall at St. Paul's. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, is much more than a series of educational classes, it moves through a process of deep reflection, discernment and formation. God offers each of us the grace of desiring and seeking love, truth, and meaning. Throughout the process of initiation into the Catholic Church, the people of God accompany those seeking full initiation step-by-step, to support, guide, and help them hear God's call in their life. For those who want to join this course please contact either Father |Gabriel or Mary the Parish Secretary.

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

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.

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.

SYCAMORE FOR MARRIED AND ENGAGED COUPLES September 15th, 22nd and 29th. 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. 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 15th at 8.30pm**. For further information and to book a place, please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

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/tnpn4hqd> 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 6th & 20th September	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Finbarr's Children's Liturgy	Sunday 11am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham
Confirmation Classes	Saturday 10.30am 12th September	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
St Jude's Prayer Group	Third Monday 2pm – 3pm 21st September	St Paul's Hall, Dover
'Familia Una' Adult Youth Group	Sundays 6pm	St. Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Paul's	Wednesdays 6:40pm for 7pm 16th September	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Holy Rosary	Thursdays 9.30am	St Paul's, Dover
Bible Study	Thursdays 10.30am	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 –**FORGIVENESS**

Thus, the Lord's words on forgiveness, the love that loves to the end, become a living reality. the parable of the merciless servant, which crowns the Lord's teaching on ecclesial communion, ends with these words: "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." It is there, in fact, "in the depths of the heart," that everything is bound and loosed. It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession. Christian prayer extends to the forgiveness of enemies, transfiguring the disciple by configuring him to his Master. Forgiveness is a high point of Christian prayer; only hearts attuned to God's compassion can receive the gift of prayer. Forgiveness also bears witness that, in our world, love is stronger than sin. the martyrs of yesterday and today bear this witness to Jesus. Forgiveness is the fundamental condition of the reconciliation of the children of God with their Father and of men with one another. (CCC:2843 & 2844)

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: Keith Purbrick, Daphne Thomas, Myrtle Fullinfaw, Mary Beatrice Jones, Richard Ian Shepherdson, Sheila Mary Lambrous, Arthur McCallum.

St Paul's: Julie Annette Green, Patrick Gosgrave, Patricia Baker, Cynthia Asquith, Mme Lucienne Roby, Ronald William MacDonald, Michael John Joseph Doyle, Nancy Nash, Russell Woolhouse, Isabella Jones, Rose Neary, Pauline Chapman, Clare Quigley, Maggie Tait, Benjamin Leat, Sr Barbara Walsh DC, Richard Barry Black, David Hanson, Christopher Mulligan, Susan Atmore, Patricia Ferris, Arthur Lawrence, Sylvia Julie Eastwood, Joan Groves.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 13th September	11am	Mass for New Headship of Hester-Seager Fleming (Fran) Thanksgiving Blessing for Ekene Family
SAINTS CORNELIUS, POPE, AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYRS	Wednesday 16th September	10am	Mass for Victims of the Flood in Nepal
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 20th September	11am	Mass for All Who Have Drifted From Their Faith
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
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
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, FEAST	Monday 14th September	6pm	NO 10am Mass Today Mass for those involved in the Refurbishment of the Crucifix. Followed by the Unveiling, Talk and Refreshments in the Hall
OUR LADY OF SORROWS, MEMORIAL	Tuesday 15th September	10am	Mass for Victims of the Flood in Nepal and their families
SAINTS CORNELIUS, POPE, AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYRS	Wednesday 16th September	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Protection of Human Life from Conception to Natural Death (Tim) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm
SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH OR SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.	Thursday 17th September	9.30am 10am 12noon	Holy Rosary Mass for Jonas Csik RIP (Gizelle) Followed by Bible Study Funeral Service for Maureen Clunas
SAINT EDITH OF KEMSING, DIOCESAN	Friday 18th September	10am	Mass for People in Search of Employment
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OR SAINT THEODORE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP, OR SAINT JANUARIUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR.	Saturday 19th September	10am 10.30am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Those with Lives Ruined by Addictions Confirmation Class in the Upper Hall Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Retired Priests
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 20th September	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Young People Contemplating Religious Life Coffee after Mass Mass for Paul Udechukwu 50th Birthday (Marie) 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 13th September 2026

First reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

‘Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.’

Anger and wrath, these are abominations,
and the sinful man will hold them fast.

The one who seeks vengeance will be paid vengeance from the Lord, and he who keeps a record will have his own sins recorded. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.

Does one person harbour anger against another
and yet seek for healing from the Lord?

Does he have no mercy towards someone like himself
and yet pray concerning his own sins?

If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath,
who will make atonement for his sins?

Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity,
remember destruction and death
and be true to the commandments.

Remember the commandments

and do not be angry with your neighbour;
remember the covenant of the Most High
and overlook error.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12. R8

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
Or Alleluia*

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Or Alleluia

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Or Alleluia

He will not always find fault;
nor persist in his anger for ever.

He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Or Alleluia

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions. *The LORD is
compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Or Alleluia

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

‘Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.’

Brothers and Sisters: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Alleluia.

John 13:34

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.’

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.’

‘Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, “Pay what you owe.” So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.’

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.