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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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

20th September 2026

Missal **P671** Order of the Mass **P470**

SECOND COLLECTION FOR EVANGELII GAUDIUM (HOME MISSION)

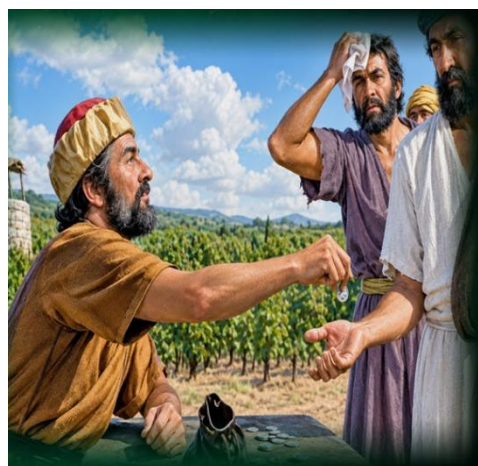
FIRST NATIONAL MASS COUNT

PRIEST CORNER

At last Monday's feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the 'War Wayside Shrine', comprising of cross and carved Christ figure, both of English oak, was unveiled and blessed following the 6pm Mass which was concelebrated by 7 priests, along with 2 deacons from across the Dover Deanery and beyond, and 70 plus parishioners drawn from St Paul's and other local parishes. At the conclusion of the Mass Paul Smye-Rumsby, the restoration project manager and lead restorer, along with Chris Quinn his assistant, were thanked and congratulated for using their time, skills, talents, enthusiasm and love, to restore the crucifix and canopy to its original 1917 condition. They were presented with an exact copy, but in slate, of the engraved brass plaque to be placed on the roadside face of the refurbished crucifix, as thanks and appreciation. Afterwards a celebratory social was held in the church hall where Deacon Barry outlined the history of the crucifix and Paul showed photos of the refurbishment. I would like to thank those people for taking part in the celebration of the restoration of the cross. Special thanks go to Paul, Chris and Deacon Barry.



GOSPEL REFLECTION: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The generosity of God has no bounds hence Jesus gave the parable of the master who invited laborers at different times but still paid them their just wage as agreed. This parable reflects God's call to each one of us at different times. To some he called at the early stage of their lives, others at their teen, to some at mature stage of their youth while some were called when they were about to retire. One important thing after the call and response to God's invitation is the ability to remain focused and consistent in the place of our assignment till the end when wages will be paid. All the workers in the case of this parable remained active in the farm until the time for payment. If we remain active in the ministry of Jesus that is entrusted to each one of us, what will be our wage? Our reward will be eternal life with Jesus in heaven. No one is given higher or lower part of heaven because of when one was called

started following Jesus. What is important is that we achieve heaven on the last day by being active in doing the will of God.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND is 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.

WELCOME FR JOHN PANARIO! At the end of the 11am Mass last Sunday Fr John, introduced himself as "a new parishioner" having recently moved into the Barton Road area of Dover and thus within the parish boundary. He also took the opportunity of saying "thank you" for our parishes "most generous" financial gift received as a consequence of his change of role. Fr John will, I'm sure, be a very regular attender at St Paul's and will assist the clergy in their pastoral roles going forward. Welcome Fr John! Deacon Barry.

FIRST NATIONAL MASS COUNT. 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.

COLLECTIONS FOR AUGUST: Cash & CollecTin £4264.78; Bankers Orders £3875.00; Thank you for your generosity.

FAMILIA UNA will be having a **sponsored walk from Deal to Dover Next 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.

REPOSITORY AT ST PAUL'S. We are looking for a willing volunteer to sell religious Mass, Sympathy, Birthday Cards, also rosaries, 2027 Diaries etc. after Mass on a Sunday at St Paul's. Please contact Monica Pope on 01304 202643 or Mary, the parish secretary, or speak to Father Gabriel.

RCIA COURSE The next RCIA Course will start at **7.00 p.m.** On **Wednesday 14th October** in the small 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.

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 Film Show 'Of God and Men' on **Tuesday 29th September at 7pm**: Made in the Year 2010; Duration 2 hr 7 mins; at the **Parish Hall, Fr Daly's Hall, 2 Lower Blackhouse Hill, Corner of Mill Road, Hythe, CT21 5LS**, Entry is free of charge, Free coffee and tea will be provided. Donations are appreciated for the maintenance of the hall. All are welcome.

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

SYCAMORE FOR MARRIED AND ENGAGED COUPLES September 22nd and 29th is an ONLINE course. Growing in Faith Together consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom. The next course begins on **Tuesday September 22nd at 8.30pm**. For further information and to book a place, please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

REFUGEE PARISH TALK: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me' (Matthew 25:35) Along with Mark Choonara, Director of Caritas, Archdiocese of Southwark and Matthew Partridge (Parishioner/Volunteer), we are organising an evening to highlight the plight of refugees, please keep, **Monday 28th September 2026 at 7.00 pm** in your diaries and come along to this informative evening at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tanners St, Faversham, ME13 7JP**

HOW DO WE PRAY? HOW DO WE BUILD A BETTER, MORE FULFILLING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? 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/tnpn4hqg> 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 **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.



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 led 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 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	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	St Paul's Hall, Dover
Holy Rosary	Thursdays 9.30am	St Paul's, Dover
Bible Study	Thursdays 10.30am	St Paul's, Dover
Mustard Seed Harvest Festival Mass	Sunday 18th October 11:00am	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: (CCC. 27 and 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, 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: Mary Irving, Walter Upton, Denny Byrne, Barbara Morgan.

St Paul's: Mary McCallum, Molly Stennet, Mary Cott, Cherry Grilli, Edmond Michael Anderson, Jan Danko, Pamela Harcourt, Dolores Maria Cooper, Susan Gertrude Price, Dick Gammie, Bernard Willis, Eric Frost Bissett, Sr. Morwenna DC, Bernice Sophia Hardaker, Carlo Raimondi, Anthony Joseph Payne, Joe Moonsamy, Patrick Joseph McMenamin, Bridget Manley, Michael Wills, Angela Gibbins, Fr. Piet.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 20th September	11am	Mass for All Who Have Drifted From Their Faith
SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA [PADRE PIO], PRIEST	Wednesday 23rd September	10am	Mass for Students of St. Joseph's Primary School (Tommy)
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 27th September	11am	Mass for Retired/impaired Coal Miners (Tommy)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
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
SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST, FEAST	Monday 21st September	10am 2pm	Mass for Sheilagh Williams RIP (Bernadette) St Jude's Prayer Group in the Hall
	Tuesday 22nd September	10am	Mass for Maureen O'Connor RIP (Iva)
SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA [PADRE PIO], PRIEST	Wednesday 23rd September	10am 5.30pm	Mass for Wellbeing of Manju Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm
OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM, FEAST	Thursday 24th September	9.30am 10am	Holy Rosary Mass for Kathleen RIP (Sheila) Followed by Bible Study
	Friday 25th September	10am	Mass for 20th Anniversary (Sujan & Thushara)
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OR SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS.	Saturday 26th September	10am 10.30am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Michael Adams RIP (Moya) Confirmation Class in the Upper Hall Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Jones Girls (Sheila)
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 27th September	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Clare Quigley RIP (Keith and Theresa) Coffee after Mass Mass for Mel and Tony RIP - Andrea's Brothers (Andrea) 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 20th September 2026

First reading

Isaiah 55:6-9 ·

‘My thoughts are not your thoughts.’

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion
on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R18a

The LORD is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

Second reading

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

‘For to me to live is Christ.’

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body,
whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and
to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful
labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am
hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be

with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh
is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life
be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Acts 16:14b

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

‘Do you begrudge my generosity?’

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, ‘The
kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out
early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After
agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them
into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw
others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said,
“You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will
give you.” So they went. Going out again about the sixth
hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the
eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And
he said to them, “Why do you stand here idle all day?” They
said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them,
“You go into the vineyard too.”

‘And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to
his steward, “Call the labourers and pay them their wages,
beginning with the last, up to the first.” And when those
hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a
denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought
they would receive more, but each of them also received a
denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of
the house, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and
you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden
of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of
them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree
with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I
choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not
allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do
you begrudge my generosity?” So the last will be first, and
the first last.’

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.**