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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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

27th September 2026

Missal **P675** Order of the Mass **P470**

SECOND NATIONAL MASS COUNT

PRIEST CORNER:

Last weekend you would have heard about our **Planned Giving Drive** and received the leaflets and forms associated with this. If you didn't get these last week, please pick them up this weekend. You can also download them from our website:

Leaflet 1 Link: <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Planned-Giving-Drive-2026-Leaflet-1.docx>

Leaflet 2 Link: <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Planned-Giving-Drive-2026-Leaflet-2.docx>

Volunteer Form Link: <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Planned-Giving-Drive-2026-Volunteer-sign-up-form.docx>

This is a whole parish renewal and relates to both our time and talents and our financial giving. **Please can you complete the forms in the handouts and return to us in the box provided at the back of church or scan and email them to dover@rcaos.org.uk**. The talks last weekend encouraged us all to consider giving by standing order and, if we pay any tax, to gift aid our giving. We can't emphasise enough the benefits of both of these approaches; both benefit the parish in many ways. Please prayerfully consider your offertory contribution and how you can best use your time and talents for the benefit of the parish, reflecting with this stewardship prayer:

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The parable of the two sons given by Jesus as a way of teaching finds meaning and touches our daily lives in different ways. Often, we say 'Yes' but do the opposite while at other points we say 'No' but after proper reflection play the role expected of the one who says yes. This is where change of heart or repentance shows significant role in our lives. No time is late. Reversing the responses of the two sons, on the day of our baptism we say "Yes, I do your will God" in response to the call of Jesus but as time goes on, we end up living the life that represents 'No, I will not' to the same call of Jesus. Though Jesus never abandons us as he is ever patient with us until the time we come back and begin to live the life of yes to his call. The first son says, "*I will not,*" but changes his mind and does the will of the father. The second son says, "*I will go sir,*" but failed to do the will of the father. The gospel was clear in identifying the repentant tax collectors and prostitutes to be seen in the image of the first son. The second son signifies the self-righteous among the chief priests and elders. John the Baptist invited people to repent, and they did repent. Their past behaviour said 'No' to God but later did the opposite and embraced the message. In whatever situation we find ourselves, we can still turn back to God and start doing his will.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Valerie Janet Coppard who had passed away. Valerie's funeral service will take place on Tuesday 6th October at Barham Crematorium at 1pm. Also, for Richard Brooks, brother of Bett Gilchrist from St Finbarr's. He sadly died on Sunday 20th September. Please pray for him and for his family. May both Valerie and Richard Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.

NATIONAL MASS COUNT. Started last Sunday and will continue on the following three Sundays: **27th September, 4th October, 11th October.** Will those who normally count please note.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY for **CAFOD Harvest Fast Collection.** There will be a special speaker at St Paul's who will give a talk about CAFOD.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) PREPARATION CLASSES 2027: ST PAUL'S AND ST FINBARR'S CHURCHES: EARLY NOTIFICATION.

In response to the numbers of parents making early enquiring about FHC preparation classes 2027 we have decided to provide the following information now rather than to wait until November:

- The First Holy Communion Classes start on Saturday 9th January 2027, St Paul's Church Hall, next to the church, from 9.30am - 11am and at St Finbarr's Church on Sunday Mornings between 9.30am and 11am, from Sunday 10th January.
- Classes only take place during term time.
- Deacon Barry delivers the course at St Paul assisted by Mrs Wright and Mrs McHugh. The course at St Finbarr's is led by Mrs Jarvie.
- Each child must be baptised before they can make their FHC. If your child is not baptised this can be arranged either before the FHC classes start or during the FHC course.
- Each child must be accompanied by a parent on each of the sessions. Each parent must remain with their child for the duration of each 90-minute session.
- The cost of the course is £30 per child and covers teaching materials, refreshments, cost of certificates etc.
- Application forms will be made available from November 2026 onwards from the back of both churches or via the parish website.
- The FHC Course 2027 will be advertised weekly in the parish newsletter from November 2026 onwards. Deacon Barry (barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk), Carina Jarvie (carinamjarvie@aol.com).

ST FINBARR'S CORNER:

1. Outdoor Statue of Our Lady - It would be wonderful to have a statue of our lady enshrined on our church grounds, this would provide a welcoming area to our parishioners, passers-by and visitors to say a prayer, light a candle or leave our lady some flowers. We are calling on you, our generous parishioners and friends of the parish to consider making donations towards this worthy cause. If this piques your interest, please speak to Carina, Esiri, Rev Frs Gabriel or Benedict. Thank you.

2. Light Party 2026 - It's fun time for our children once again at St Finbarr's! Our light party is scheduled for **Saturday 31st October 2026**. It is the third year running and it has continued to increase in popularity. We hope that it will be even bigger this year with participation from our local primary school, St Joseph's, other churches in the village and the entire village itself. We are calling for volunteers to organise and assist with executing this, your kind donations would also be welcome. Please speak to Agnese or Esiri if you would like to contribute in any way.

3. General Healing and Anointing of The Sick: Sunday 25th October 3pm, St Finbarr's. All of us need healing, spiritually, emotionally or physically. The planned service is an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of the sick together. The service will be led by the parish clergy priests. Please join us for this short service and pray for healing, either for yourself, your family or loved ones. **A second general healing service and anointing of the sick is planned for 3pm, Sunday 14th February, 2027, at both St Finbarr's, Aylesham and St Paul's Church, Dover.**

4. Autumn Church Cleaning - Friday, 13th November, 5:30pm and Saturday, 14th November, 10am. The clipboard is at the back of the church. If you are able to help, please put your name opposite the job you can do on the date and time that suits you. Thank you.

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 **7pm 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.

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 it centres on the monastery of Tibhirine, where nine Cistercian Trappist monks lived in harmony with the largely Muslim population of Algeria, until seven of them were kidnapped and assassinated in 1996 during the Algerian Civil War. 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.

FEAST OF ST JUDE – 24th-25th & 28th OCTOBER Whitefriars, Tanner Street, Faversham ME13 3BZ

- Saturday 24th October 12noon & 2.30pm: St Jude Mass, followed by anointing
- Sunday 25th October 12.30pm St Jude Mass, followed by anointing
- Wednesday 28th October 5.30pm St Jude Mass, followed by anointing

All are welcome. Please call 01795 539214, visit www.stjudeshrine.org.uk or email shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk for more information

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 4th & 18th October	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 19th October	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 11am	St Paul’s, Dover
General Healing and Anointing of The Sick	Sunday 25th October 3pm	St Finbarr’s, Aylesham
Light Party	Saturday 31st October	St Finbarr’s, Aylesham
Autumn Church Cleaning	Friday 13th November 5.30pm Saturday 14th November 10am	St Finbarr’s, Aylesham

CATECHISM –

How can we keep from committing sin?

We can keep from committing sin by praying and by receiving the sacraments; by remembering that God is always with us; by recalling that our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost; by keeping occupied with work or play; by promptly resisting the sources of sin within us; by avoiding the near occasions of sin. (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, 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: Bridget Hanley, Peter McCallum, Peter Williams, Margaret Coates, Derek Jones, David Leidig, David John Girdwood, George Douglas, Jade Louise Deary, Alan Pearson, John Michael Leamy, Bridget Flynn, Robin Quinn.

St Paul’s: Domenico Abats, Eileen Pile, Fr. Pat Best, Pamela Rogers, John Nolan, Patrick Harney, Kathleen Baker, Archbishop Peter Amigo, Julia Margaret Naylor, Geoff Millar, Catherine Downie, Alan Pearson, Matthew Worsdell, Angela Gibbins, Bernard FitzPatrick, Sr Elizabeth DC, Dr Cecily Janet Partridge.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 27th September	11am	Mass for Retired/impaired Coal Miners (Tommy)
SAINT JEROME, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL	Wednesday 30th September	10am	Mass for Fostered Children
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 4th October	11am	Mass for People of the Parish
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
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
SAINT WENCESLAUS, MARTYR OR SAINT LAWRENCE RUIZ AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS.	Monday 28th September	10am	Mass for Joseph Vincent RIP (Nicy)
SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	Tuesday 29th September	10am	Mass for G/E Bernadette & Len (Sheila)
SAINT JEROME, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL	Wednesday 30th September	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for G/E Moya (Sheila) Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall - Refreshments from 6.40pm
SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL	Thursday 1st October	9.30am 10am	Holy Rosary Ordinariate Mass for Birthday Remembrance of Juliana de Silva RIP (Daniel) Followed by Bible Study
THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, MEMORIAL	Friday 2nd October	10am	Mass for Gwyneth Trowbridge RIP (Sheila)
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 3rd October	10am 10.30am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Sheila Friends (Sheila) Confirmation Class in the Upper Hall Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Olga Mary Wills RIP & her Deceased Relatives (Colin)
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 4th October	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for People of the Parish Coffee after Mass Mass for Jean Mackenzie RIP (Robert) Mustard Seeds Children's Liturgy in the Upper Hall 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: dovernnewsletter@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 27th September 2026

First reading

Ezekiel 18:25-28

‘When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed, he shall save his life.’

Thus says the Lord: ‘You say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R6a

Remember your compassion, O LORD.

O LORD, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.
Remember your compassion, O LORD.

Remember your compassion, O LORD,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions.
In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.
Remember your compassion, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.
Remember your compassion, O LORD.

Second reading

Philippians 2:1-11

‘Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.’

Brothers and Sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,

but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,
and I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

**‘He changed his mind and went.
The tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.’**

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” And he answered, “I will not”, but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, “I go, sir”, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.’

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.