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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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A 4th October 2026

Missal **P679** Order of the Mass **P470**

THIRD NATIONAL MASS COUNT

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CAFOD Harvest Fast

We Welcome Maggie Melville who will be giving a short talk on the work of CAFOD this weekend at all Masses at St Paul's

GOSPEL REFLECTION: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The first reading and the gospel of today used vineyard to explain our relationship with God. God placed us in the world like the vine with the expectation that we will produce good fruits. Not producing fruits put us in the danger of losing ourselves. God has given us all the blessings that will make us productive and effectively represent God in the world by living the life of the gospel. Even when we fail to produce the desired fruit, God still searches for us and makes effort to bring us back. By answering the invitation of Jesus, the parable in the gospel tells us how we may be treated because of Jesus. There will be oppositions and persecutions because we have been entrusted with the gospel. Though the messengers of the gospel never find life easy as their master Jesus Christ himself did not, but laid down his life. In the same way, we may be rejected but the good news is that Jesus promised to be with us always. We must not be afraid to carry our cross every day and follow Jesus as He has promised us a reward of eternal life for those who remain steadfast in faith.

CANDLE STANDS IMPORTANT NOTICE There have been several incidents recently where the candle stands at St Paul's have been overflowing with lighted candles. This is a Health & Safety Fire issue. Please only put candles in the holders provided. Candles **MUST NOT** be placed on the bottom of the stand or put on the top between the holders. Those who light more than 2 candles at a time please be considerate of others who wish to light candles but the stand is full. This is particularly relevant on a Sunday. Thank you for your understanding.

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE 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. We are encouraged 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.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE DOVER OUTREACH CENTRE, ST PAULS, DOVER.

Parishioners are invited to attend the service of celebration and thanksgiving regarding the 10th Anniversary opening of the Dover Outreach Centre, (DOC) at its first 'home,' St Paul's Church Hall, Dover in October 2016. We will also be celebrating, at the same time, the work of the Winter Night Shelter (WNS) across various churches in Dover including St Pauls. Volunteers from both DOC and WNS supporter churches from across Dover and beyond are being invited, along with former and current DOC staff and clients. The service commences at **6pm, Thursday 8th October, St Paul's Church, Dover** and is immediately followed by a social in the church hall. Deacon Barry.

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, Joyce Purssord from St Mary's Dover who some parishioners may know. May Valerie & Joyce Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Amen.



HAPPY 97TH BIRTHDAY TO JOHN DOYLE The clergy and parishioners are delighted in sending John many happy returns of the day as he celebrates his 97th Birthday this weekend. According to parish records John is our oldest parishioner. Well done John. Deacon Barry.

CONFIRMATION 2026 Sunday 22nd November at the 11am Mass here in St Paul's. Candidates please note: **Confirmation Classes each Saturday 10am to 11am** in the Upper Room of St. Paul's Hall.

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 have reached the age of 7 i.e. school year 3 (Key Stage 2)
 - 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.

ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL NEWS Beginning of Year Mass 2026



On Friday 25th September, Mrs Parsons, accompanied by three pupil representatives, attended the Southwark Archdiocese Beginning of Year Mass at St George's Cathedral alongside our outgoing Chair of the Local Governance Committee Mr J Philpott and our new Chair, Mrs Miles. This special celebration brought together pupils, staff, governors and school leaders from across the Archdiocese to pray for God's blessing on the year ahead and to recommit ourselves to the mission of Catholic education. During the Mass, Mrs Parsons renewed her commission as Headteacher, while Mrs Miles was commissioned in her new role as Chair of the Local

Governing Committee. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Miles to this important role and were proud to share her commissioning, alongside Mrs Parsons' rededication, with our pupils and the wider family of Catholic schools. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Mr John Philpott for his outstanding service as Chair of the Local Governance Committee over the past 12 years. His dedication, wisdom and unwavering commitment to St Edmund's have helped shape the school during a period of significant growth and success. We are especially grateful that Mr Philpott will continue to serve as a governor until March, providing valuable support and continuity as Mrs Miles begins her new role as Chair. As we begin this new academic year, we look forward with hope and renewed purpose, continuing our commitment to ensuring that Christ is at the centre of all we do in service of our children, families and community.

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.

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.

ARE THERE ANY SONGWRITERS in St Finbarr's/St Paul's who would like to explore and experiment in a collaboration to attempt to write worship songs? I'm looking to set up a collaboration team of several songwriters if there's the interest. Must be adults only and have experience of composing music and/or lyrics. Contact Matthew Sykes msykes71@yahoo.com

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 Sunday 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 10am	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	Sunday 6pm	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Fides Prayer Group St Paul's	Wednesday 6:40pm for 7pm	St Paul's Hall, Dover
RCIA Course	Wednesday 7pm Starts 14th October	St Paul's Upper Hall, Dover
Holy Rosary	Thursday 9.30am	St Paul's, Dover
Bible Study	Thursday 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 St Paul's Dover
Autumn Church Cleaning	Friday 13th November 5.30pm Saturday 14th November 10am	St Finbarr's, Aylesham

CATECHISM - MAN'S FREEDOM

God created man a rational being, conferring on him the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions. God willed that man should be 'left in the hand of his own counsel,' so that he might of his own accord seek his Creator and freely attain his full and blessed perfection by cleaving to him. Man is rational and therefore like God; he is created with free will and is master over his acts. (CCC.1730)

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: 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: Rita Mary Morgan, Clare Muriel Theresa Kelsall, Francois Borgarello, Kathleen Mather, Malcolm Albert Whitehouse, Tom Peters, David Jones, Margaret Scott, John Horton, Joseph Cunningham, George Walford, Raymond Michael Cooper.

St Paul's: Tiny Douglas, Marcella Mary Rudd, Daisy Letchford, Bridget Mulligan, Frederick Gibbons, Archie Clayton, John Corry, Barbara Monclus, Sidney Padfield, Michael Siddle, Johnny McDermott, Fr. Donal Lowensz, Steve Atmore, Vicky Dexter, Paul Frederick Jackman, William Doolin, Valerie Black, Vera Griffith.

EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. FINBARR'S			
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 4 th October	11am	Mass for People of the Parish
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, MEMORIAL	Wednesday 7 th September	10am	Mass for Holy Souls
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 11 th October	11am	Mass for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland (Tommy)
EVENTS THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Saturday 3 rd 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 4 th 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
SAINT FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, VIRGIN	Monday 5 th October	10am	Mass for Robert Baker RIP (Colin)
SAINT BRUNO, PRIEST.	Tuesday 6 th October	10am	Mass for Confirmation Candidates
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, MEMORIAL	Wednesday 7 th October	10am 5.30pm 7pm	Mass for Holy Souls Exposition and Holy Rosary until 6.30pm Fides Prayer Group in the Hall - Refreshments from 6.40pm
	Thursday 8 th October	9.30am 10am 6pm	Holy Rosary Mass for a successful RCIA Course Followed by Bible Study Service of Thanksgiving for Dover Outreach Centre
SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, PRIEST,	Friday 9 th October	10am	Mass for Students Starting University
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OR SAINT PAULINUS OF YORK, BISHOP OR SAINT DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS OR SAINT JOHN LEONARDI, PRIEST.	Saturday 10 th October	10am 10am 5pm 6pm	Mass in St Edmund's Chapel for Peace throughout the world Confirmation Class in the Upper Hall Confessions in the church (until 5.45pm) Mass for Suffers of Dementia and their Carers
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Sunday 11 th October	9am 11am 3pm 6pm	Mass for Solution to the Oil Crisis Coffee after Mass Mass for People of the Parish 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

4th October 2026

First reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

‘The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.’

Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79):9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20. R̥ Isaiah 5:7a

The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
It stretched out its branches to the sea;
to the River it stretched out its shoots.

The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
Bring us back, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

Second reading

Philippians 4:6-9

‘Practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.’

Brothers and Sisters: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 15:16

Alleluia, alleluia.

I chose you out of the world, says the Lord,
that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

‘He will let out the vineyard to other tenants.’

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.” And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’

They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.’

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.