

PRESBYTERY
37 Frindsbury Road,
Strood, ME2 4JA
01634717582
07960 322259

(Mobile number for urgent pastoral needs,
including Anointing of the Sick and Holy
Communion)

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Mebrate Desalegn
mebratedesalegn@rcaos.org.uk

SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN

Fr Shinoj Francis
shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH DEACON

Rev. John Letley
07958 677299

PARISH SISTER

Sr. Augustine Day
01474 569565

PARISH SECRETARY

Anna West
strood@rcaos.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

Kate Taylor
Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Anthea Kwaw
stroodsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Barbara Asaam
stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

PARISH WEBSITE

www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org

DONATIONS

Nat West Bank
Sort code: 60-21-02
Account number: 55082904
Account Name: RCAS Strood

This parish is part of the RCAOS registered

**ENGLISH MARTYRS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Headmistress Ms Catherine Thacker
Frindsbury Road, Strood
ME2 4JA
01634 718964

A member of Kent Catholic Schools Partnership

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE
388

WEEKLY COLLECTION
GIFT AID £305.42
NON-GIFT AID £425.40

TOTAL £730.82



ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD



MARCH
St. Joseph

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 1ST MARCH 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 127

**SUNDAY 1ST
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

8.30am Said mass
10.30am Sung mass

*Darren O'Brien Birthday intentions
For the wellbeing of the Parishioners*

**MONDAY 2ND
FERIA**
No public mass today

**TUESDAY 3RD
FERIA**
9.30am Holy Mass

Rebecca Maufe

**WEDNESDAY 4TH
SAINT CASIMIR**
9.30am Holy Mass

Jean Mabel Jarman RIP

**THURSDAY 5TH
FERIA**
11.00am Funeral Mass

**FRIDAY 6TH
FERIA**
9.30am Holy Mass
10am-12am Adoration
6.30pm Holy Mass
7.00pm Stations of the Cross

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

Kathleen Kirkwood

*For the whole parish community, with a special
invitation to young people and their families*

**SATURDAY 7TH
SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY**
9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-12noon Adoration
6.30pm Vigil Mass

Charles Hill RIP

People of the Parish

**SUNDAY 8TH
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

8.30am Said mass
10.30am Sung mass

Francisca Marchan-Farrell thanksgiving and intentions

Giovannina Cannavina intentions

Confessions	Fridays: 5.30 pm–6.30 pm, Saturdays: 10.15 am–10.45 am First Friday of the Month: 10.00 am–12.00 noon
Adoration	Thursdays: 10.00 am–11.00 am, Fridays: 10am–11am Saturdays: 10.00 am–12.00 noon, First Friday of the Month: 10.00 am–12.00 noon
Parish groups (held in the John Fisher Room unless otherwise stated)	
Monday	Mothers Prayers (monthly) at 7pm
Tuesday	Legion of Mary at 7 pm
Wednesday	Coffee Club after morning mass
Thursday	Padre Pio Prayer Group first Thursday at 7 pm
Friday	Mother and toddler's group at 9am (term time) Parish Hall Youth Club – first Friday of the month at 6.30 pm (term time)
Saturday	Knights of St Columba, first Saturday of the month at 7 pm
Sunday	Tea and Coffee every Sunday at 11.30 am in the Parish Hall

On the Mountain with the Lord – Listening and Being Transformed

This Sunday we hear about the Transfiguration of Jesus. On the mountain, the disciples see His glory and hear the voice of the Father:

“This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.”

Lent is a time for listening.

We may not stand on Mount Tabor, but each Sunday we gather on the holy mountain — in prayer, in Scripture, and above all in the Mass. The Father still speaks. The Lord still reveals Himself. The question for us is whether we are willing to listen with open hearts.

We hear God’s voice in the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass.

We hear His voice in quiet prayer.

Sometimes through the timely advice of a trusted friend.

Sometimes in a word that challenges us.

Sometimes in a gentle call to change.

To listen means to be open. It means allowing God to guide us, correct us, and strengthen us.

On the mountain, the disciples were afraid. Jesus touched them and

said, *“Stand up. Do not be afraid.”* The Lord still touches us today —

especially through the Sacraments. In the Eucharist He feeds us. In

Confession He forgives us. In every sacrament He gives grace.

But Lent reminds us that the Sacraments are not magical actions. They are living encounters with Christ that call for a real response. We are baptised and initiated into Christ, yet we must continue to grow. Prayer, fasting, and self-discipline are part of our Catholic tradition too. They help grace bear fruit in our lives.

Confession is a beautiful gift. Bringing even our habitual sins to the Lord is good. But Lent asks us to look for fruit — real growth, real change, a transformed life. Grace is given freely, but it invites cooperation.

Lent is our journey up the mountain with the Lord. It is a journey of vigilance — remaining faithful in prayer and sincere in fasting. When we stay close to Him, fear gives way to peace, and routine faith becomes living faith.

Let us remain with the Lord.

Let us listen carefully.

Let us be vigilant in prayer and faithful in fasting.

And let us allow His grace to truly transform our lives.

Stations of the Cross and masses

Every Friday at 7pm, after the 6.30pm Holy Mass there will be Stations of the Cross.

On Thursday there is Funeral mass at 11am that will be replacing the morning mass. Also, there will not be an adoration on that day.

English Martyrs Catholic Youth Club

English Martyrs Catholic Youth Club will meet on **this Friday, 6th March, at 6.20 pm in the Church. Pick up at 8.45 pm from the Parish Hall.** There will be prayers, Holy Mass, games and tuck shop. Children of ages from school **Years 6 to 11 are welcome.** Cost **£2** per child.

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) Lourdes Pilgrimage

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) have some vacancies for their Lourdes Pilgrimage during the May half-term. **Pilgrims need to be serving or retired seafarers.** If you are interested in joining Stella Maris on pilgrimage in May, which is fully funded, please contact Reverend Deacon John Fogarty on the following mobile telephone number, 07851019134

Tea and coffee

This Sunday we will have **Tea and Coffee** after the **10:30am Mass in the Parish Hall**, please do join us and get to know your brother and sister parishioners.

Easter Music Preparation

We have started singing practices on **Tuesdays from 6pm-7pm in the church** to prepare music for the Holy Triduum. Please come along to learn a new Mass setting, new hymns for Easter and to refresh previously sung pieces.

Please bring any sheet music from previous years with you, copies for new singers will be provided. All are welcome.

We are hoping to have at least one practice session outside of the Tuesday evening slot so that as many as possible can learn the new music.

Pray the Romero Rosary at St George’s Cathedral

Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary **every Friday at 5pm** throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. **Archbishop John** will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George’s Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on **Friday 27th March**. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary

Building a Better Marriage BABM

A one-day event in different deaneries. 9am - 4.30pm. It’s a day where couples can **privately** explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married. **There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Booking is essential.** March 7 Tonbridge Parish (Tonbridge Wells Deanery), May 23 Wallington (Sutton Deanery), June 13 Hythe (Dover Deanery), June 27th Tooting (Wandsworth Deanery), October 3 West Norwood (Lambeth Deanery). **Contact Carole on:** mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Stop assisted suicide - further action needed!

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. Visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

St Francis, Maidstone's Young Adults Group

St Francis, Maidstone's Young Adults Group will be hosting a guest speaker at its next meeting on **Thursday 12 March 2026**. The speaker is a seminarian and will cover the topics of Vocation and Marian Devotion. We will meet inside the church where the talk will start at **19:30**, followed by a Q&A session, and a social in a nearby pub afterwards. **All young adults (aged 18 - 35) are warmly invited to attend.** St Francis is situated directly across from Maidstone East Station. For further details please contact youngadults@stfrancisparish.org.uk, or visit <https://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/young-adults-group/>

Our sick parishioners and friends: Barbara Borthwick, John Paul Stoke, Betty Jones, Cathrin La Page, Lauren Allan, Tony Carroll, Sylvia Kemp, Billy Thomas, Marie Fassioms, Samantha Candeggi-D'Alonzo, Joe-Joe Dockrell, Carol Masey, Eileen Wells, Jenson Lambeth, Neo Taylor, Kathy Mogg, Anna Gawlik, Joanna Tidmarsh, Helen and Arthur Annal, Claire Baron, Rod Black, Michael New, Michael (Mick) Griffin, Adam Luck, Elliott King.

Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joseph Hepplewhite, Lynda Young, Nancy White Ellen Wren, Douglas Pereira, Betty Stanley, Reginald Creasey, Giovanni Gaston, Spiridon Sammut, Margaret Kerr, Annette Newman, Carol Bowmer.