

PRESBYTERY
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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

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SAFEGUARDING

Kate Taylor
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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
389**

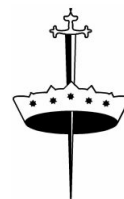
WEEKLY COLLECTION
GIFT AID £342.00
NON-GIFT AID £489.10

TOTAL £831.10

**ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL
SECOND COLLECTION
£277.96**



ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD



FEBRUARY
The Holy Family

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 15TH FEBRUARY 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 96

**SUNDAY 15TH
SIXTH SUNDAY**

8.30am Said mass

People of the Parish

10.30am Sung mass

Bogdan Mysiak RIP

**MONDAY 16TH
FERIA**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 17TH
THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER**

9.30am Holy Mass

Florette Lewis RIP

**WEDNESDAY 18TH
ASH WEDNESDAY**

9.30am Holy Mass

Graham Godfrey RIP

7.00pm Holy Mass

Holy Souls

**THURSDAY 19TH
FERIA**

11.00am Funeral Mass *Rita Mary Gregory*

**FRIDAY 20TH
FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass

John and Noreen Tuffield RIP

5.30pm-6.30pm Adoration

6.30pm Holy Mass

Giuseppa Callaghirone RIP

**SATURDAY 21ST
SAINT PETER DAMIAN**

9.30am Holy Mass

Ludwing Giraldo Mantilla RIP

10.00am-12noon Adoration

6.00pm Vigil Mass

People of the Parish

**SUNDAY 22ND
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

8.30am Said mass

Florette Lewis RIP

10.30am Sung mass

Adriana Krupka Birthday 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: 5.30 pm–6.30 pm

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

Lent: A Time for Inner Healing of the Heart

This week, as we celebrated Our Lady of Lourdes and listened to the readings from Ordinary Time, one theme quietly emerged — the healing of the heart.

At Lourdes, God revealed the mystery of the Immaculate Conception not to great theologians, but to a simple young girl, Saint Bernadette. Through her humility, God's message reached the world. Lourdes has become a place of healing, and many have experienced physical cures through its waters.

Yet Bernadette herself was not physically healed. She remained ill and died young. This reminds us that God's deepest work is not always the miracle we expect. The greater healing God desires is often interior — the healing of the heart. In Bernadette's own life, suffering became a path of union with Christ and a powerful witness of faith.

The same is true of many martyrs, including Saint John the Baptist. Their suffering and death were not defeats, but signs of courage. Through their trials, God strengthened the faith of others. Their lives teach us that faith matures not only through comfort, but through trust in God's will.

This leads us to the reading about Solomon. We are told that his heart was not wholly true to the Lord. Slowly, other influences drew him away, and his heart became divided. David, too, sinned — but he kept returning to God and asking for mercy. The difference was not perfection, but a heart that turned back.

As Lent approaches, we are invited to ask:

Is my heart whole?

Or has it slowly become divided?

Lent is not simply about giving up small things. It is a grace-filled season for inner healing — a time to return, to seek mercy, and to allow God to make our hearts whole again.

Like Bernadette, may we accept God's will with humility.

Like the martyrs, may we remain courageous in faith.

Like David, may we return quickly when we fall.

May this Lent be for each of us a true time of inner healing, so that our hearts may once again be wholly true to the Lord.

Masses this week

Saturday 14th: At the **Vigil Mass**, the **Syro-Malabar community** will join us as they conclude their retreat.

Mass for Ash **Wednesday 18th February** - morning mass at **9.30am** and evening mass at **7pm**.

On **Thursday 19th February** there will not be a morning mass, nor Adoration. **There will be a Funeral Mass at 11am.**

Clergy Support Fund Second Collection this weekend

The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have one for parishes. You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan QR code. You can also donate via telephone Mon-Fri 020 7960 2504 or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today at the back of Church. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



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.

A Big Thank You

Thank you to all, who attended the '**Concert for Life**' on **Saturday 31st January 2026**. We have raised fabulous £414.00.

Thank you for all the helped with the raffle and the raffle prizes, the fabulous food and drinks.

Everyone, who came, really enjoyed it. A special thanks to my musician friends, some of whom are not Catholic, but gave of their best for free. Thanks again to all, who attended and supported S.P.U.C. and the unborn. Paschal.

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 **Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm**, and again on **Friday 6th and 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. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriages better and to improve their communication skills. **There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Booking is essential.**

7 March Tonbridge Parish (Tonbridge Wells Deanery)

23 May Wallington (Sutton Deanery)

Contact Carole on: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Good Counsel Network

Come and join **Bishop David Waller** as he launches the **40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN** in **BRIXTON** with an hour of **CANDLELIT** public prayer to end abortion and offer outreach to expectant mothers and all affected by abortion. **TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 7-8PM.** Opposite **Corpus Christi Catholic Church** at the corner of Brixton Hill and Brixton Water Lane, London, SW2 5BJ. For more details please visit our website www.GoodCounselNetwork.com or contact Jacinta on 07503 151419"

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: James Finneran, Frances Kidd, Loretta Reynolds, Greta Kirkham, Susan Alpe, John Tuffield, Mother Constantia, Mary Smith, Albert Parr, Muriel Howard, Kenneth Synot, James Connolly, Nora Baker, Theresa Mulvaney.