

**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](mailto:mebratedesalegn@rcaos.org.uk)

**SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN**

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[shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk)

**PARISH DEACON**

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07958 677299

**PARISH SISTER**

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01474 569565

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**PARISH WEBSITE**

[www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org](http://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 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**  
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 96

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**SIXTH SUNDAY**

8.30am Said mass

*People of the Parish*

10.30am Sung mass

*Bogdan Mysiak RIP*

**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER**

9.30am Holy Mass

*Florette Lewis RIP*

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

9.30am Holy Mass

*Graham Godfrey RIP*

7.00pm Holy Mass

*Holy Souls*

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

11.00am Funeral Mass *Rita Mary Gregory*

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass

*John and Noreen Tuffield RIP*

5.30pm-6.30pm Adoration

*Giuseppa Caltagirone RIP*

6.30pm Holy Mass

**SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**SAINT PETER DAMIAN**

9.30am Holy Mass

*Ludwing Giraldo Mantilla RIP*

10.00am-12noon Adoration

*People of the Parish*

6.00pm Vigil Mass

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**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

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

**Saturday**

Youth Club – first Friday of the month at 6.30 pm (term time)

**Sunday**

Knights of St Columba, first Saturday of the month at 7 pm

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

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

On **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 done 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](http://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.



**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.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 (Tunbridge Wells Deanery)**

**23 May Wallington (Sutton Deanery)**

Contact Carole on: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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 17<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com) or contact Jacinta on 07503 151419"