

**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**

Fr Shinoj Francis  
[shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:strood@rcaos.org.uk)

**SAFEGUARDING**

Kate Taylor  
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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**  
**342**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**  
GIFT AID £238.29  
NON-GIFT AID £503.31

**TOTAL £741.60**



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'  
STROOD**

JUNE  
Sacred Heart of Jesus



**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 351**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass

*Mary Fletcher RIP  
Letley Family*

**MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT RICHARD OF CHICHESTER**

9.00am-9.30am Adoration & Holy Rosary  
9.30am Holy Mass

*Micah Evans thanksgiving  
and his exams intentions*

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.00am-9.30am Adoration & Holy Rosary  
9.30am Holy Mass

*Cecil and Frances Smith RIP*

**THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.00am-9.30am Adoration & Holy Rosary  
9.30am Holy Mass

*Ramute RIP and  
Francisco Wedding Anniversary  
(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

**FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**SAINT JOHN RIGBY**

9.30am Holy Mass  
10.00am-11.00 am Adoration and Holy Rosary

*Christine Grierson's intentions*

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT ALBAN**

9.30am Holy Mass  
10.00am-12noon Adoration  
6.00pm Vigil Mass

*Holy Souls*

*Arthur and Kathleen Pearl RIP*

**SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass

*People of the Parish  
For the repose of the Soul of Mrs Agnes Amu  
(3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary)*

**Confessions**

Saturdays: 10.15 am–10.45 am and 5.15pm -5.45pm  
First Friday of the Month: 10.00 am–11 am

**Adoration and Holy Rosary:** From Tuesdays to Fridays 10.00-10.30am

Saturdays: 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

## First Holy Communion 2026 – A Joyful Day of Faith

This morning, our parish church was filled to capacity as 32 children received Holy Communion for the first time. It was a joyful and prayerful celebration for the children, their families, parishioners, and friends. In the homily, we reflected on the words of Jesus: "I am the Bread of Life." Before giving the Eucharist at the Last Supper, Jesus prepared his disciples through his teaching and miracles, especially the feeding of the multitude. He wanted them to understand that the Eucharist would be his greatest gift: his own Body and Blood given for the life of the world. As we celebrated the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we were reminded that children are God's precious gift entrusted to our care. Parents naturally love their children and want the very best for them. Yet, like Mary and Joseph who presented the child Jesus in the Temple, we are called not simply to keep our children for ourselves but to bring them to the Lord and entrust them to his loving care. The celebration also highlighted the importance of the wider family of the Church. While parents are the first teachers of the faith, no family is meant to journey alone. Our children benefit greatly from the witness and support of the parish community, the Catholic school, catechists, and volunteers who generously give their time. Through their example, children learn that faith is not lived in isolation but within the family of God.

We were reminded that we do not come to church because we are perfect. Rather, we come because we need the Lord and because we need one another. In the parish community we find encouragement, friendship, prayer, and examples of Christian discipleship.

The Eucharist not only unites us with Christ but also with one another. Through receiving the same Body and Blood of Christ, we become more deeply brothers and sisters in him. For this reason, after Mass the children, families, and parishioners gathered in the hall to continue the celebration together. Sharing refreshments was more than a social event; it was a visible sign of the communion we celebrate at the altar and of our belonging to one parish family.

As part of the celebration, the children made an act of dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary and received a blessed medal. Reflecting on the words of Jesus from the Cross, "Behold your mother," we were reminded that Mary is given to us as our spiritual Mother. Just as St John welcomed her into his home, we are invited to welcome her into our lives. Through her Immaculate Heart, she always leads us to her Son and encourages us to do whatever he tells us.

We offer our sincere thanks to our catechists, Clare Di Fede and Joanna Mroczka, for their dedication and generosity in preparing the children for this important day.

As a parish family, we now look forward to our Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 28 June at 10.30am, when our First Holy Communion children, Confirmation candidates, and RCIA participants will receive their certificates and we will give thanks for the many blessings received through these sacraments during the past year. We also invite parishioners to join us on Sunday 12 July at 11.00am for a Thanksgiving Mass for Sister Augustine Day, thanking God for her many years of faithful and generous service to our parish and assuring her of our prayers as she begins a new chapter following her recent retirement from parish duties.

May the Lord continue to bless our First Holy Communion children and their families, and may Our Lady of the Immaculate Heart always lead them closer to her Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Friday Evening Mass

As the Confirmation programme has now concluded, there will be no weekly Friday evening Mass. The First Friday Mass will continue each month at 7 pm.

### Walsingham Pilgrimage .. cancelled

Unfortunately, due to the limited number of bookings received, the cost of transport for the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 27 June would be too high. Therefore, the parish will not be organising a coach this year. Those who still wish to attend are welcome to make their own travel arrangements and join Archbishop John Wilson and pilgrims from across the Archdiocese for the day. We thank everyone who expressed an interest.

### SAINTS PETER AND PAUL – SUNDAY 28 JUNE

At the 10.30 am Mass, we will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for our RCIA candidates, newly confirmed parishioners, and First Holy Communion children. Certificates will be presented at the end of Mass. All are warmly welcome

### Archdiocesan Marriage Mass

Married couples are warmly invited to the annual Marriage Mass with Archbishop John Wilson at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, on **Saturday 11 July at 3.00 pm.**

A special welcome is extended to those celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. All married couples are welcome.

Please contact the parish office for details.

### GRATITUDE FOR SISTER AUGUSTINE

A Thanksgiving Mass for Sister Augustine, celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks, will take place on **Sunday 12 July at 11.00 am.** All are welcome

### Celebration on 12<sup>th</sup> July

Envelopes are now available in the porches for us to contribute towards a gift for Sister, to show our love and appreciation for everything she has done to strengthen our parish over many years.

### Food bank

Our Food Bank supplies are running low, and we would be grateful for any donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. Your generosity helps support local individuals and families in need. Every contribution makes a difference. Thank you for your kindness and support.

### Pilgrim Madonna

The parish Pilgrim Madonna statue is available to visit homes for prayer for up to one month. To arrange a visit, please get in touch with Chioma McMorrow: 07411 112463 or [sylverlyn\\_chioma@yahoo.com](mailto:sylverlyn_chioma@yahoo.com).

**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, Bonny (Bonifacio) Da Silva.

**Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Bishop James Dannel, Alan Buschhold, George Wright, Patricia Brown, Antonio Modena, Josephine Long, Christopher Sage, Victor Camilleri, Leslie Clifford, Frances Smith, May Morgan, Ben McMannigan, Dennis Boyle, Augustine Luddem, Bertie Robbins, Christopher Gillen, Elaine Petts, Catherine Upton, William Taylor, Mary Reynolds, Bridget Dullely.