

**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  
[Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
Anthea Kwaw  
[stroodsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:stroodsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
Barbara Asaam  
[stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

**PARISH WEBSITE**

[www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org](http://www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org)



# ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD

April  
The Blessed Sacrament



**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 276**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass  
2.30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Bernadette Foster intentions  
People of the Parish*

**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT MARTIN**

9.30am No public mass today

**TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mas

*Hilarion and Claire Manaog RIP*

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass

*John and Noreen Tuffield RIP*

**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass  
10.00am-11.00am Adoration

*Mary Hyden RIP*

**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass  
10.00am-11am Adoration  
6.30pm Holy Mass

*(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

*Ivy and Paul Fox RIP*

*Kelly Day RIP*

**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

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

*For God's Grace for Darren, Diana,  
Ligia and Orlando*

*Karen Hill RIP*

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass

*People of the Parish  
Agnieszka Johnson's Birthday intentions*

**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**

**718**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

GIFT AID £1370.00  
NON-GIFT AID £1546.38

**TOTAL £2916.38**

**Confessions**

Fridays: 5.30 pm–6.00 pm, Saturdays: 10.15 am–10.45 am  
First Friday of the Month: 10.00 am–11 am

**Adoration**

Thursdays: 10.00 am–11.00 am, Fridays: 10am–11am  
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

## After Easter: We Still Need His Mercy

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, just after the joy of Easter, we are reminded not to forget God's mercy; in a world that so often lacks compassion, Christ meets us—even behind the closed doors of our hearts—and says, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19), not to condemn, but to forgive, to heal, and to restore.

We have just passed through Lent—a season of grace, a season of healing, a time when we were especially invited to return to the Lord. Now we are in the Easter season; yet this does not mean that we lessen our need for repentance or step away from Confession. Rather, the Risen Lord, who shows His wounds and comes close to His disciples, reminds us that we must continue seeking His mercy.

The devotion invites us to encounter the same Jesus we see in the Gospel—compassionate in His ministry, loving His enemies, calling sinners back; on the Cross saying, "Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43); and after the Resurrection returning with mercy to encourage His disciples—He is the same Lord who gave His life out of love.

He shows His wounds (cf. John 20:20); to Saint Thomas He says, "Do not doubt but believe" (John 20:27), and Thomas responds, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28); even in glory He remains "a Lamb... slain" (Revelation 5:6)—a Risen Lord who understands our weakness and meets us with mercy.

Through Saint Faustina Kowalska, and promoted by Pope John Paul II, the Church reminds us that this devotion adds nothing new, but calls us back to trust in Jesus' mercy.

We are invited to bring our wounds and weaknesses to Him—in Confession, where He forgives us; in Holy Communion, where He strengthens us; and in Adoration, where we rest in His presence.

As we grow, especially into adulthood, we may feel independent or unworthy, but this is when we need His grace even more; Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us not to stay away, for the Lord continues to accompany us and call us back.

**"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).**

**Jesus, I trust in You. My Lord and my God.**

## Divine Mercy Devotion – Sunday 12 April 2026

Today, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at **2.30 pm**, followed by the **Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3.00 pm**, and concluding with **Benediction at 3.30 pm**.

All are warmly invited to come and pray together.

## Deanery Consultation (Summer Proposal)

Following a discussion among priests in the Chatham Deanery about supporting one another during the summer, a *suggestion* for **Strood and Rochester** is:

**Sat:** 6.00 pm (Strood)

**Sun:** 9.00 am (Rochester), 10.30 am (Strood), 6.00 pm (Rochester)

This is **only a discussion and a suggestion, not a decision or a change at this stage**.

We simply wish to receive your suggestions.

Please share your thoughts through the parish email.

## 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.

## Ambassadors for Christ

A Catholic apologetics project from the Archdiocese offering clear, faith-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" and "Does prayer work?" New videos are released every Monday on YouTube, with worksheets for use in parishes, schools, and families. More information: [rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist](http://rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist)

## Free Marriage and Family Life events for Parents and Married or engaged couples

### For parents with teenagers

Catholic CELEBRATE are offering free of charge 2 webinars  
**Confident parenting in a world of screens** 29th April 8pm

**Raising teenagers in a Catholic family** 2nd June 8pm

To book a place contact asap [info@celebratetrust.org](mailto:info@celebratetrust.org)

### Building a Better Marriage (BABM)

In 2026 one day Building a Better Marriage events will be held to strengthen and enrich marriages. The day starts at 9.00 am until 4.30pm and is free to attend. The days will be held in the following **deaneries: May 23** Sutton; **June 13** Dover; **June 27** Wandsworth; **October 3** Lambeth

To join please contact **Carole on 07983 524 727** or

**email: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)**

### For engaged and married couples:

#### Rooted in love – Online Group

Meets one hour a month on Zoom from 8.30pm to 9.30 pm.

It's free to attend **April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26, December 10**. FFI contact Carole

on [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk). Other courses available- FFI

contact Carole on [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

## Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 11th, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names, home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Contact us at [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location.

## The Annual Rosary Crusade for the Unborn Child

**It started Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March**, on the Feast of the Annunciation when we say our first rosary and thereafter it is **once a week every Saturday** up until Christmas Day. There are leaflets in the porches for more information.

## Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (2026)

Bishop Paul Hendricks warmly invites you to Lourdes: **21–28 August 2026**.

Details: [www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-ca/](http://www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-ca/)

Please also complete the form: [www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026](http://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026)

Contact:

Canon Edward Perera – [edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)

Deacon John Fogarty – [johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)

Bishop Paul Hendricks – [paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

## Sycamore GIFT – Growing in Faith Together: An

online course for married and engaged couples (8:30–9:30pm), developed with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team.

Four one-hour Zoom sessions to deepen love, friendship, and faith.

To book: **Carole – [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)**

Dates: 31 March; 5, 12, 19 & 26 May; 8, 15, 22 & 29 September.

**Our sick parishioners and friends:** Barbara Borthwick, John Paul Stoke, Betty Jones, Cathrin La Page, Lauren Allan, Tony Carroll, Sylvia Kemp, Billy Thomas, Marie Fassions, 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.

**Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Francis Micallef, Juanita Brooks, Una Souley, Alfred Ayling, Veronica Walker, Iris Hine, Noel Hearn, Brendan Coyle, Margaret McCaffery, Mary Lambert, Frank McManus, Anthony Reynolds, Donal O'Gorman, Catayena Whitten, Grace Fahy, Henry Anderson, Liliana Molinari, Jack Daly, Alan Willmott, Wilma Revie, Marie Carter, Barbara Ongley, Patricia Skillett, Noreen Tuffield, Harry Richards, Rebecca Mogg, Patrick Ayng.