

**PRESBYTERY**  
37 Frindsbury Road,  
Strood, ME2 4JA  
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(Mobile number for urgent pastoral needs,  
including Anointing of the Sick and Holy  
Communion)

**PARISH PRIEST**

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**PARISH WEBSITE**

www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org



# ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD

JUNE  
Sacred Heart of Jesus



**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 1041**

**SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass

*Bernadette Foster intentions*  
*John Trollope RIP*

**MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**THE FIRST MARTYRS OF HOLY ROMAN CHURCH**

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

*Ramute RIP and*  
*Francisco Wedding anniversary*

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY**

**SAINT OLIVER PLUNKET**

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

*Deacon John*

**THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY**

**FERIA**

11.00am Funeral Mass *Ann Instance*

**DONATIONS**

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

*This parish is part of the RCAOS registered*

**FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY**

**SAINT THOMAS APOSTLE**

9.00am-9.30am Adoration & Holy Rosary  
9.30am Holy Mass  
7.00pm Holy Mass

*(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

*Ramute Janeliunaite -Tambis RIP*  
*Rebecca Manfe RIP*

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

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

*Holy Souls*

*Miss M. B. Corney RIP*

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass

*Raymond James Lineker RIP*

*People of the Parish*

**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**

**316**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

GIFT AID £246.00  
NON-GIFT AID £449.68

**TOTAL £695.68**

**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 9.00am-9.30am

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

**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

## A Certificate Is the Beginning, Not the End

This weekend, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, we also rejoice with those in our parish who have recently received Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, or have been received into the Church through the RCIA. At the end of Mass, we present them with their certificates.

Most of us are familiar with receiving certificates at different stages of our lives. They often mark an achievement. These certificates, however, are different. They are not simply a record of something completed, but a sign that a lifelong journey of faith has begun.

Saints Peter and Paul show us what that journey looks like. After the Ascension, Peter became the visible sign of unity in the Church, strengthening his brothers and sisters in the faith. St Paul, after encountering the risen Lord, did not rely only on his personal experience. He first spent time in prayer in the desert of Arabia, returned to the believing community in Damascus, and later travelled to Jerusalem to meet Cephas, Peter. Paul understood that our encounter with Christ is personal, but never private. Faith grows within the believing community of the Church.

The same is true for us. The sacraments are not magic, and they are not simply rewards for what we have done. They are God's gift of grace. That grace must continue to grow through prayer, Sunday Mass, the Eucharist, Confession, and by living as faithful disciples of Jesus. Peter and Paul became saints not by their own strength, but by allowing God's grace to shape their lives day after day.

To all who receive certificates this weekend, and indeed to every one of us, this is a reminder that the Christian life is a lifelong journey. We belong to what the Church calls the **Church Militant**—not because we fight against people, but because we are engaged in the daily spiritual struggle against sin, temptation, and everything that draws us away from Christ. Each day we choose truth over lies, forgiveness over resentment, generosity over selfishness, and love over hatred. Yet the Church is far greater than those gathered here today. We belong to one communion: the **Church Militant** on earth, the **Church Suffering** being purified, and the **Church Triumphant**, where Our Blessed Lady, Saints Peter and Paul, and all the saints rejoice in God's presence. United in Christ, we pray for one another and encourage one another until, by God's grace, we all reach our heavenly home.

Parents, godparents, families, and parishioners, thank you for helping our children and those newly initiated into the Church to grow in faith. Your witness is one of the greatest gifts you can give them. Let us continue to encourage one another. Like St Paul, let us never try to live our faith alone, but remain united with the Church, faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, devoted to the Eucharist, and close to Our Blessed Lady, who prayed with the Apostles and continues to lead us always to her Son.

May Saints Peter and Paul pray for all of us, that together we may persevere in faith, remain united in Christ and His Church, and one day rejoice with all the saints in the glory of heaven. **Amen.**

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Collection for Peter Pence Peter's Pence is the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their shared concern with the Successor of Peter in addressing the necessities of the Universal Church and to help those most in need.

## READERS

A reminder to all those wishing to read at Mass (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning): there will be a meeting in the church on **Saturday 4th July from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEPARTED

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DEPARTED

Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially: **Rebecca Maufe, Ramute Janeliunaite-Tambis, Ann Mary Claire Instance, Noreen Chambers** (Hoo St Werburgh), **John Cooney.**

**Ann Mary Claire Instance**, who died on 30 May 2026, aged 84. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated at English Martyrs Church on Thursday 2 July at 11.00 am, followed by committal at **Thames View Crematorium at 1.00 pm.**

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

**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, Bonny (Bonifacio) Da Silva.

**Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Simon Digweed, Peter Lomax, Rita Nelligan, Naomi Black, George Coveney, Carol Pearce, Gwen Griffin, Thomas Maguire, Don Pitts, Rudi Molinari, Ivan Settle, Syd Sharp, Patrick Brady, Anne Day, Larry Purtill, Mary Wilkinson, Denis Chapelle.

## PARISH THANKSGIVING MASS – 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. We also give thanks for all who have supported them throughout the year with their prayers, encouragement, and practical help.

All are warmly welcome.

## Mothers Prayer group

**This Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July**, Mothers Prayer group will meet at **7 pm** in the church. **Church cleaning at 6pm.** Any help is highly appreciated.

## ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE MASS (SATURDAY 11 JULY):

Married couples are warmly invited to the annual Marriage Mass with Archbishop John Wilson at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, 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 in Southwark for details.

## YOUTH DAY AT ST JOHN FISHER SCHOOL, CHATHAM (SATURDAY 11 JULY)

11.00 am – 5.30 pm. A day of prayer, activities, sport, and lunch for young people aged 10–14 years, organised by the Southwark Catholic Youth Service. Cost: £5 per person. We warmly commend this event to the young people of our parish. To book a place, please visit: <https://rcaos.org.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/event-booking/>

## THANKSGIVING FOR SISTER AUGUSTINE – SUNDAY 12 JULY:

A Thanksgiving Mass for Sister Augustine, celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks, will take place at 11.00 am. All are warmly welcome. Envelopes are now available in the church porches for anyone who would like to contribute towards a gift for Sister Augustine as a sign of our love and appreciation for her many years of dedicated service and support to our parish. All are welcome to the Parish Hall after the mass for refreshments, including a BBQ.

## PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION - WALSINGHAM

**1 August 2026.** All are welcome to join the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on Saturday 1 August 2026. The day begins with the 12pm Angelus and Pilgrim Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany of Life, Benediction, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and a silent Act of Reparation, concluding with the Salve Regina. Those unable to attend are asked to join in prayer. For information and coach bookings, visit [prolifepilgrimage.org](http://prolifepilgrimage.org).

**FOOD BANK APPEAL:** 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.

## ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB

Please note that this Friday **there will not be** the English Martyrs Catholic Youth Club.