

**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**

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**PARISH WEBSITE**

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



# ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD

The Month of May is Mary - Dedicated to  
the Mother of God



**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 332**

**SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup>****THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

|         |                                      |  |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 8.30am  | Said Mass                            | <i>People of the Parish</i>                      |
| 10.30am | Sung Mass                            | <i>Joanna's and Lukasz's Wedding Anniversary</i> |
| 6.30pm  | Holy Rosary, Adoration & Benediction |  |

**MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE****SAINT JUSTIN**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE****SAINTS MARCELLINUS AND PETER**

|                 |             |                                       |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9.30am          | Holy Mass   | <i>For all the sick in the Parish</i> |
| 10.00am-10.30am | Holy Rosary |                                       |

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE****SAINT CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS**

|                 |             |                   |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 9.30am          | Holy Mass   | <i>Holy Souls</i> |
| 10.00am-10.30am | Holy Rosary |                   |

**THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE****FERIA**

|                 |             |                          |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 9.30am          | Holy Mass   | <i>John Trollope RIP</i> |
| 10.00am-10.30am | Holy Rosary |                          |

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE****SAINT BONIFACE**

|                  |                           |   |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 9.30am           | Holy Mass                 | <i>(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)</i>                |
| 10.00am-10.30 am | Adoration and Holy Rosary | <i>Kelly Day RIP</i>                      |
| 7.00pm           | Holy Mass                 | <i>Patrick's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday</i> |

**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>****THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

|                |                           |  |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| 9.30am         | Holy Mass                 | <i>For all the children receiving Holy Communion</i> |
| 10.00am-12noon | Adoration and Holy Rosary |  |
| 6.00pm         | Vigil Mass                | <i>People of the Parish</i>                          |

**SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE****THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)**

|         |           |  |
|---------|-----------|--|
| 8.30am  | Said Mass | <i>Julie and Stephen Mauje and Family</i>  |
| 10.30am | Sung Mass | <i>Maria Generose Dos Reis D'Souza RIP</i> |

**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**

**371**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

GIFT AID £279.73  
NON-GIFT AID £554.10  
**TOTAL £833.83**

**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)

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Mothers Prayers (monthly) at 7pm   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Legion of Mary at 7 pm   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Coffee Club after morning mass   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Padre Pio Prayer Group first Thursday at 7 pm  |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Mother and toddler's group at 9am (term time) Parish Hall<br>Youth Club – first Friday of the month at 6.30 pm (term time) |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Knights of St Columba, first Saturday of the month at 7 pm   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Tea and Coffee every Sunday at 11.30 am in the Parish Hall   |

## Faithfulness to the Triune God: Through Every Stage of Life

"I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, one of the greatest mysteries of our Christian faith. The Holy Trinity is not simply a formula to be memorised or a doctrine to be discussed only at an intellectual level. It is the living reality of God Himself. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three distinct Divine Persons, perfectly united in love and working together for the salvation of humanity.

The Trinity also teaches us something about our own calling. We are created not for division or isolation, but for communion. In our families, parish communities, and daily lives, we are called to reflect that same unity, love, and faithfulness. Faithfulness means remaining close to God day by day, allowing Him to guide us through every stage of life.

This theme of faithfulness runs through the celebrations of this past week. On Tuesday, we celebrated Saint Philip Neri, the joyful Apostle of Rome, whose kindness, prayer, humour, and compassionate care for the poor brought many people closer to Christ. His life reminds us that faithfulness to God is not a burden but a source of lasting joy.

On Thursday, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. Through Baptism and Confirmation, all Christians share in Christ's priesthood and are called to reflect His compassion, generosity, and self-giving love. Faithfulness is not simply believing certain truths; it is becoming more like Christ each day through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

On Friday, we remembered Saint Paul VI. Before becoming Pope, he served as Archbishop of Milan as Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini. He was known for his pastoral closeness to ordinary people, especially the poor, workers, migrants, and struggling families. He visited them personally, listened to their concerns, encouraged them, and worked tirelessly for their spiritual welfare. In 1963, during the Second Vatican Council, Cardinal Montini was elected Pope and took the name Paul VI. He guided the Church through an important period of renewal while constantly teaching that the Church must always remain faithful to Jesus Christ and His Gospel. The Church later recognised his holiness and today honours him as Saint Paul VI. His life reminds us that holiness is achieved not through extraordinary achievements alone, but through daily faithfulness to God.

His example is particularly encouraging for those who were recently confirmed and received into the full communion of the Catholic Church at Pentecost, as well as for the thirty-two children from our parish who will soon receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. These important moments are not the end of a journey but the beginning of a deeper friendship with Christ, who desires to accompany them throughout their lives and help them grow in faith, hope, and love.

As we celebrate Trinity Sunday, we also bring to a close our May devotions to Our Blessed Lady. Although the Feast of the Visitation gives way to the Sunday celebration, we still remember Mary's beautiful example. At the Annunciation, the mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed in a unique way: the Father sent His Son into the world, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary so that Christ might take flesh in her womb.

When Mary visited Elizabeth and received praise for the great privilege she had received, she immediately directed all glory back to God: "*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.*" Mary teaches us humility before the greatness of God and reminds us that every blessing is a gift to be received with gratitude and faithful service.

As we conclude this month dedicated to Our Lady, we ask her to accompany us as she accompanied the Apostles and the first Christian community. The examples of Mary, Saint Philip Neri, Saint Paul VI, and countless other saints remind us that faithfulness to the Triune God is lived not in one dramatic moment but day by day through prayer, worship, service, sacrifice, and perseverance.

As we reflect on the Lord's promise, "*I am with you always, to the end of the age,*" may we take comfort in knowing that He never abandons us. From Baptism to First Holy Communion, from Confirmation through every stage of life, the Lord walks with us. He remains faithful to us and calls us to remain faithful to Him.

May the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit draw us ever more deeply into their life of love and help us to remain faithful to the Triune God through every stage of life

**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:** Thomas O'Shea, Jean Clifton, Joseph Morris, Bridget McCarthy, Mary Hayes, Annavar O'Dolan William Mulvaney, Dorothy Wadey, Ivo Halls, William Smith, Violet Gammon, Frederick Humphries, Carmela Farrugia, Geraldine Johnson, Harry Jelly, Donald Mahoney.

**FAITHFUL DEPARTED:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary "Bernie" Sheehan (née Griffin), formerly of Ravenswood Avenue, Strood**, and a long-time parishioner of English Martyrs. May she rest in peace. **Andrew Johnson's Funeral Mass** will take place at **11.00 am on Thursday 11 June**. Please keep Andrew and his family in your prayers.

**CONCLUSION OF MAY DEVOTION:** This Sunday at **6.30 pm**, we will conclude our May Devotion with the **Holy Rosary, Adoration, Benediction, and a simple Marian Procession within the church**. Please join us in prayer through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady.

### CORPUS CHRISTI – 7 JUNE

**On Sunday 7 June at the 10.30 am Mass**, we will celebrate Corpus Christi. At the end of Mass, there will be brief Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a simple Eucharistic procession inside the church, and Benediction.

All parishioners are warmly invited. In a special way, we encourage families, recently confirmed children, RCIA candidates received into the Church, and children preparing for First Holy Communion to attend this beautiful celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

### PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

The parish is planning to join Archbishop John Wilson for the Archdiocese of Southwark Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on **Saturday, 27 June 2026**. The day will include Mass with Archbishop John, Adoration, Confessions, a Rosary Procession, Benediction, and time for prayer at England's National Shrine of Our Lady. We are considering hiring a coach if there is sufficient interest. The cost will be confirmed nearer the time. **If you would like to attend, please speak to Deacon John as soon as possible.**

**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 6.30 pm.

**Young Adults Mass:** St. George's Cathedral Young Adults invites young adults from across the Archdiocese to a Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson.

✠ Confessions available during Mass

☪ Social afterwards

✠ A chance to meet the Archbishop, other young adults, and grow in faith together.

📅 Sunday 7th June

🕒 6pm

📍 St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR

Young adults (18-35) very welcome. Bring a friend!

### GRATITUDE FOR SISTER AUGUSTINE

After many years of faithful service to our parish, Sister Augustine will retire from regular parish ministry from Pentecost onwards. A Thanksgiving Mass with Bishop Paul Hendricks will be celebrated on **Sunday 12 July at 11.00 am**. Please keep Sister Augustine in your prayers with gratitude and affection.