

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

Fr Mebrate Desalegn
mebratedesalegn@rcaos.org.uk

SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN

Fr Shinoj Francis
shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH DEACON

Rev. John Letley
07958 677299

PARISH SISTER

Sr. Augustine Day
01474 569565

PARISH SECRETARY

Anna West
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SAFEGUARDING

Kate Taylor
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Anthea Kwaw
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PARISH WEBSITE

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
Charity Number 1173050*

**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
348

WEEKLY COLLECTION
GIFT AID £511.00
NON-GIFT AID £462.85

TOTAL £973.85



ENGLISH MARTYRS'
STROOD
JULY
The Precious Blood



✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 19TH JULY 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 369

SUNDAY 19TH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

*People of the Parish
John Trollope RIP*

MONDAY 20TH

FERIA

9.30am school leavers' mass (All parishioners welcome)

TUESDAY 21ST

FERIA

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

Kelly Day RIP

WEDNESDAY 22ND

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

11.00am Funeral Mass *Mrs Pamela Bruen*

THURSDAY 23RD

SAINT BRIDGET

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

Happy Retirement for Sr Augustine

FRIDAY 24TH

FERIA

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

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

*Ramute RIP
(From loving friends and relatives)*

SATURDAY 25TH

SAINT JAMES APOSTLE

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

Holy Souls

People of the Parish

SUNDAY 26TH

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

Bernadette Forster intentions

Agnes Laurence RIP

Confessions

Saturdays: 10.15 am–10.45 am and 5.15pm -5.45pm
First Friday of the Month: 10.00 am–11.00 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
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

Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Always with Us

This weekend, we reflect on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, celebrated by the Church on 16 July. It is a feast with special meaning for us in the Archdiocese of Southwark, as we are blessed to have the Carmelite Shrine at Aylesford Priory here in Kent, one of the most important Carmelite places of pilgrimage in the world.

The story of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is more than the history of a religious order. It is the story of a Mother who is always with her children. Wherever God's people journey, Mary accompanies them, encouraging them and always leading them closer to her Son.

The story begins on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, where the prophet Elijah courageously defended faith in the living God. Carmelite tradition looks back to Elijah and to holy men who sought God on Mount Carmel while awaiting the promised Messiah. Centuries later, Christian hermits settled there, dedicating their lives to Jesus Christ and placing themselves under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They built a chapel in her honour and called her the "Lady of the Place." From this community the Carmelite Order was born.

When the Holy Land became unsafe because of war and persecution, the Carmelites were forced to leave their home. Yet they carried with them their devotion to Our Lady, trusting in her motherly care. Under the leadership of St Simon Stock, the Carmelite Order flourished throughout Europe.

According to Carmelite tradition, on 16 July 1251, Our Lady appeared to St Simon Stock and entrusted him with the Brown Scapular. The Scapular is not a magical charm or a guarantee of salvation, but an outward sign of an inward commitment to Christ. It reminds us to entrust ourselves to Mary's care and to live lives of prayer, faith and faithful discipleship.

Our own Aylesford Priory tells the same story. The Carmelites lived there for almost three hundred years until the Dissolution of the Monasteries under King Henry VIII in 1538. They were forced to leave, and the priory remained in private hands for more than four hundred years. Yet God's work did not end. In 1949, the Carmelites returned and restored their ancient home. Today, Aylesford is once again a flourishing place of prayer and pilgrimage. Through Mary's loving guidance, God never stopped working in their history. Even through exile and uncertainty, He continued His plan and brought new life where everything seemed lost.

The history of the Carmelites reflects a truth that we also see in the Gospel readings we heard throughout this past week. As opposition to Jesus steadily increased, Mary quietly remained close to her Son. She witnessed His rejection, stayed faithful during His suffering, and finally stood beneath His Cross. She never abandoned Him.

The same Mother remains close to us today. Like the Carmelites, we too may have to leave familiar places, begin again or face unexpected trials. Yet Mary continues to accompany us with her motherly care. Through her guidance and prayers, God never stops working in our lives. He strengthens us, opens new paths before us and gently leads us towards His greater purpose. Mary never keeps us for herself; she always leads us to Jesus.

From the Carmelite family came many great saints—St Teresa of Avila, St John of the Cross and St Thérèse of Lisieux—who remind us that holiness is found through prayer, trust in God, perseverance and faithful love in the ordinary moments of life.

As we carry this reflection into the coming week, may we remember that Our Lady of Mount Carmel is always with us. Let us entrust ourselves, our families and our parish to her loving care. May she strengthen our faith, protect us in every trial and always lead us safely to her Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.

COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND 18TH /19TH JULY

Sea Sunday –the collection will take place now on 18th/19th July 2026. This Sea Sunday, we pray for seafarers facing crisis and conflict worldwide. Stella Maris provides vital pastoral and practical support to those at sea.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEPARTED: Please remember in your prayers all those from our English Martyrs Parish who have recently died, especially:

- Mrs Pamela Bruen – Wednesday 22 July, Funeral Mass at 11.00 am
- Frances Susanne Carr – Wednesday 29 July, Funeral Mass at 11.00 am
- Rebecca Maufe – Wednesday 5 August, Funeral Mass at 11.00 am
- Noreen Chambers – Wednesday 12 August, Funeral Mass at 1.00 pm

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SISTER AUGUSTINE'S RETIREMENT PARTY

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the wonderful celebration for Sister Augustine last Saturday. Your generosity and hard work made it a very special and memorable occasion.

Fr Mebrate

NEW SACRISTY RESPONSABILITIES

Following Sr Augustine's retirement, **Clare Di Fede** has kindly agreed to take responsibility for the sacristy. This includes preparing the altar and everything needed for Mass, including the hosts, wine, vessels and other liturgical items. Clare will also continue arranging the flowers.

Catherine Capone, who already helps with sewing veils and altar linens, will assist Clare in this role.

We are very grateful to Clare and Catherine for their generous service to our parish.

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION – WALSINGHAM (Saturday 1 August 2026): All are welcome to the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. The day begins with the 12.00 pm Angelus and Pilgrim Mass, followed by prayer and devotions. If you are unable to attend, please join in prayer. For details and coach bookings, visit prolifepilgrimage.org.

SCHOOL LEAVERS' MASS

Our Headteacher, Catherine Thatcher, warmly invites parishioners to attend the School Leavers' Mass on **Monday 20 July at 9:30 am**. The children would be delighted to see members of our parish community there as they mark this important occasion.

FOOD BANK APPEAL: Our Food Bank supplies are running low. Donations of non-perishable food and toiletries would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting local people in need

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: Moya Collis, Livine Tharpe, Mary Lynch, Martin Gannon, Betty Wright, Eric Garrett, Tania Reynolds, Frances Larkin, Nadine Van Steeger, Thomas Bryan, Sofia Zkulczuk, Ellen Turner, Ian Bristow, Marlene Porter, Michael Pepper, Maureen Wormleighton, Joseph Walsh, Julia Donald, Mary Hepplewhite, Ronald Roots.