

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

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
strood@rcaos.org.uk
Kate Taylor
Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Anthea Kwaw
stroodsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Barbara Asaam
stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

Kate Taylor

Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Anthea Kwaw

stroodsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Barbara Asaam

stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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

**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
340**

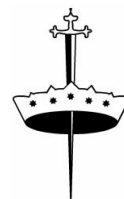
WEEKLY COLLECTION
GIFT AID £250.47
NON-GIFT AID £460.14

TOTAL £710.61

**SPUC WHITE FLOWER
APPEAL
£597.21**



ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD



JANUARY
The Holy Name and Childhood of Jesus

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 25TH JANUARY 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 84

**SUNDAY 25TH
THIRD SUNDAY**

8.30am Said mass
10.30am Sung mass

*Bernadette Foster intentions
People of the Parish*

**MONDAY 26TH
SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 27TH
SAINT ANGELA MERICI**
12 noon Funeral Mass *Thomas Power*

**WEDNESDAY 28TH
SAINT AGNES**
9.30am Holy Mass

Nancy and John Gryjin RIP

**THURSDAY 29TH
FERIA**
9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am–11.00am Adoration

For the forgotten souls in the Purgatory

**FRIDAY 30TH
FERIA**
9.30am Holy Mass
5.30pm Adoration
6.30pm Holy Mass

Epegenia Carpio RIP

*For the whole parish community, with a special
invitation to young people and their families*

**SATURDAY 31ST
SAINT JOHN BOSCO**
9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am–12noon Adoration
6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sister Augustine and her intentions

People of the Parish

**SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
FOURTH SUNDAY**
8.30am Said mass
10.30am Sung mass

Monica O'Brien Birthday intentions

Wellbeing of Linda Doran

Confessions

Fridays: 5.30 pm–6.30 pm, Saturdays: 10.15 am–10.45 am
First Friday of the Month: 10.00 am–12.00 noon

Adoration

Thursdays: 10.00 am–11.00 am, Fridays: 5.30 pm–6.30 pm
Saturdays: 10.00 am–12.00 noon, First Friday of the Month:
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 6.15 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

God Shapes Our Lives Through His Word

As we journey through Ordinary Time, after celebrating the Baptism of the Lord, the Church leads us in the weekday readings through the Book of Samuel and the Gospel of Mark. Together, they show us how the Word of God guides and shapes our lives. This Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is also celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by the late Pope Francis, reminding us to give God's Word a central place in our lives.

In the Old Testament, we hear about Hannah's prayer and her generosity in offering her son Samuel back to God. With the help of Eli, Samuel learns to listen to God's voice: "*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*" He grows in faith and serves God by anointing Saul and then David. Even when David has the chance to harm Saul, he chooses respect, recognising him as the Lord's anointed.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee after the arrest of John the Baptist. He calls people to conversion, heals the sick, and gathers followers. Even when some reject him, Jesus continues teaching and forming a community of disciples and apostles.

Through the Old Testament, God speaks through Samuel, the prophets, and the Law. In Jesus, the Word of God becomes flesh, a light for all nations. As Scripture says, "*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*" We first received this light at Baptism, and it continues to guide us today through the Word and the Sacraments, especially in the Holy Mass.

Jesus himself spent thirty years in Nazareth, growing within family life, before beginning his mission. This reminds us — especially our children — that there is a time for everything, and that the Church walks with us at every stage of life.

By listening to the Word of God, through Confession, and through the Sacraments, we receive healing and guidance. Like David, we are anointed at baptism and called to treat one another with respect, showing compassion, patience, and truth.

On this Sunday of the Word of God, may we allow God's living Word to shape our hearts and our lives, so that we may carry Christ's light into the darkness of our world.

Masses this week

On Tuesday 27th January, funeral mass 12noon, for **Thomas Power RIP**. Please note there **will not be a morning mass this day**.

St George's Cathedral Second Collection THIS SUNDAY 25th January

For over half a century, St George's Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. Today, St George's Cathedral continues to attract thousands of worshippers and visitors each year. St George's Cathedral is **entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark** to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily. Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedrals, scan QR Code, Telephone 020 7960 2504, Cash / Cheque – please use the St George's Cathedral envelopes at the back of church.



Ambassadors for Christ: A Catholic apologetics resource

The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched an exciting apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" or "does prayer work?". Ambassadors for Christ is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith. Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, along with a worksheet to enable parishes, schools, youth groups and families to use them as part of their faith formation. To watch the videos, please visit: rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist.

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, Elliott King.

Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ruby Haines, Gerard Johnson Olga Keith, John McDowell, Mary Noonan, Chris Evans, Albert Knight, Joanna Purtill, Stephen Oakley, Daniel Kenny, Kathleen Gumley, Georgia Robbins, Joseph Devlin, Carvello Carmenzuli, Alfred Powell, Mollie Babbington, Maria Villar, Josephine Gibbons, Barrie Jones.

Parish Contact Details

We have a parish working mobile (07960 322259) for **urgent pastoral matters**, including the **Anointing of the Sick** and requests for **Holy Communion**. For **Mass intentions, certificates, documents**, and other **administrative enquiries**, please continue to use the **parish landline** or **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.

Mothers Prayer group

Next Monday 2nd February, Mothers Prayer group will meet at **7 pm** in the church. **Church cleaning at 6pm**. Any help is highly appreciated.

SPUC Concert for Life NEXT SATURDAY

The SPUC group are holding their annual **Concert for Life**, an evening of music and song on next **Saturday 31st Jan 2026 from 7pm until late at English Martyrs Parish Hall**. Please bring your own drinks, Light refreshments will be available. There is no entrance fee but donations will be greatly appreciated.

Archdiocesan Pilgrimages for Young Adults

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are invited to join **Archbishop John on pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 7 to 13 June 2026**.

The cost is £789, which includes flights and full-board accommodation on a shared basis. To book, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/lourdes26

For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/scys1

Thank you

The Care Committee would like to say a **big thank you for those who helped out with the New Year's lunch last Sunday**. It was great spending time with our fellow Parishioners.

White Flower Appeal

The SPUC group would like to **Thank you for generous donations** for the White Flower Appeal. The amount raised was **£597.21**.

Summer Theatre Trip 29 July

There is now just one sign-up sheet in the main porch (Frindsbury Rd entrance) for the stage performance of **Jesus Christ Superstar** at the London Palladium. This is for an evening performance on **Weds 29 July**.

Please ensure your name and contact details are on there if you want to join this parish event as one of the sheets has gone missing.

Travel will be by coach; recommended age is 10 years and over. Ticket price is £55 payable on reservation (by mid-February) Seats are in the Dress (Royal) Circle rows G, H and I

Return coach fare will be approx. £20 (payable in July) Please talk to Kate Taylor for more information if required.