

ENGLISH MARTYRS' R.C. CHURCH

37 Frindsbury Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 4JA.

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PARISH PRIEST Fr Tom Lynch 01634 717582
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 ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL - 01634 718964.
 Headmistress Ms Catherine Thacker

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

Confessions: Saturdays at 10.15 am – 10.45 am and 5 pm 5.30pm.
Adoration Saturday 10 am -12 noon and 1hour before every weekday mass.

Parish groups (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 first Sunday at 11.30 am in the Parish Hall

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sat 30th Nov **Saint Andrew**

9.30 am (Latin Mass) The holy souls of John Family

6.00 pm Rev Antonio Cannavina RIP

Sun 1st Dec **First Sunday of Advent**

8.30 am People of the Parish

10.30 Mark Brown RIP

Mon 2nd December **Feria**

9.30 am For the Souls of Family Carvana

Wed 4th December **Saint John Damascene**

9.30 am Christine Grierson intentions

Thur 5th December **Saint John Almond**

09.30 am Rita, Paul and Sandra Douglas RIP

Fri 6th December **Saint Nicolas**

7.00 am Julitetta Gomes RIP

09.30 am Augusto Fiorani RIP

7.00 pm In Thanksgiving to God for everything he is doing for me and my children and for blessing in the future

Sat 7th December **Saint Ambrose**

9.30 am (Latin Mass) Voight Family

6.00 pm Arthur and Kathleen Pearl RIP

Sun 8th December **Second Sunday of Advent**

8.30 am Bridie Collis RIP

10.30 People of the Parish

A message from John Trollope and his Family

Thank you for all the cards, Mass dedications and prayers following Diane's death. Diane requiem will be on **Thursday 19th December at 12 noon in the English Martyr's RC church, followed by cremation at 2pm in the Thames View Crematorium.** A tribute has been set up at <http://dianetrollope.muchloved.com> where there are details of donations to charity that can be made in the memory of Diane.

During Advent there will be an **additional Mass on Fridays at 7.00 am.** Let's make this time special.

Grand Christmas Raffle tickets

Our Grand Christmas Raffle tickets are now available!

Great prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize and many of the other fantastic prizes to win too! **Please collect them and distribute to your friends and family. Closing date is on Monday 9th December! Draw on 15th December at 12noon during special tea and coffee in the Parish Hall.**

We are welcome donations of new, unwanted gifts for our lottery. **Thank you for supporting our Church!**

Our Parish Christmas Cards will be available this weekend. **The cost is £7 for 10 cards.**

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Barbara Borthwick, Judith Streten, 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, Shane McNeelan, Eileen Gallagher, Helen and Arthur Annal, Claire Baron, Rod Black, Michael New.

Anniversaries: Peter Doyle, Patricia O'Shea, Bridget Bailey, Shakeel Gosha, Michael Bruen, Rev. Antonio Cannavina, Bernard Gaze, Jack McLoughlin, Patrick read, Kevan Mercer, Agnes Jackson, Marie McDonald, Bede Lamb, Margaret Gallagher, Bob Piercy, Gertrude O'Brien, Clare Norris, David Sloan, Elizabeth Lewis.

	Total	Gift Aid	Non- Gift Aid
Weekly Collection	£786.29	£258.00	£528.29
Attendance	349		

Spiritual Thought

On this day – the first Sunday of Advent – Mass was celebrated in this church for the first time. Fr Corley, who had seen the old church was too small for the growing Catholic population, decided to build a new church, which we use to this day.

That was 60 years ago – and so for this year, for the whole year, we will celebrate our 60th anniversary. For 60 year parents have brought their children for baptism, confession and first Holy Communion. For 60 year couples have stood at the altar steps and held hands promising lifelong vows. For 60 years, in the same spot, the dead have been brought for their funerals, that prayers be said, and they go to heaven.

For 60 years God has been visiting and sanctifying his people in this church built over a chalk pit on a hill outside Rochester. Our first thought must be thanksgiving to God for all his wonders, then thanksgiving for all the people who built up both the parish and the church. Then we must ask – how can we pass on this great treasure to the people after us.

But for this year – let us rejoice in God's great gifts, and ourselves feel at home in his house.

New Translation of the Lectionary

We welcome **this weekend the new translation of the Lectionary.** It is a very accurate (and at times difficult) translation of the Bible, which will help us hear more clearly the revelation of God.

Advent Reading Group

This Advent we will be reading **The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis.** A great spiritual classic describing purgatory. We will meet in the **St. John Fisher Room on Sunday 1st December at 3pm.** The books will be available at the meeting.

Tea and coffee

This Sunday after the 10:30am Mass we will have tea and coffee in the hall – you're most welcome to come and get to know the other parishioners

Mothers Prayer group

On Tuesday, 17th December, Mothers Prayer group will meet at 7pm. Christmas Church cleaning 6pm. Any help with the cleaning will be much appreciated.

English Martyrs Catholic Youth Club

English Martyrs Catholic Youth Club will meet on **this Friday, 6th December, at 6:15 pm until 8.30 pm in the St. John Fisher Room.** There will be prayers, Holy Mass, games and tuck shop. Children of ages from school **Years 6 to 11 are welcome.** Cost £2 per child.

Southwark Archdiocese Rosary Prayer Project

Everyone is warmly invited to join this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, praying a decade of the Rosary each day for priests and parishes in their deanery.

For details **see the poster on the noticeboard** or email southwarkrenewal@gmail.com.