

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
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SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN

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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

**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
354**

WEEKLY COLLECTION

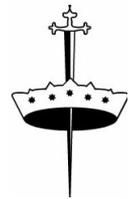
GIFT AID £262.00
NON-GIFT AID £385.33
TOTAL £647.33

POOR PARISHES

GIFT AID £132.00
NON-GIFT AID £172.15
TOTAL £304.15



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'
STROOD**



**MARCH
St. Joseph**

✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 29TH MARCH 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 153

SUNDAY 29TH

THE PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

*Welfare of Liz Fiorani
People of the Parish*

MONDAY 30TH

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

9.30am Holy Mass
10am – 12noon Confessions and Adorations
Afternoon: Visits to the housebound and care homes
(please contact the parish priest to arrange)

Christopher Kamel RIP

TUESDAY 31ST

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

9.30am Holy Mass
10am – 12noon Confessions and Adorations
Afternoon: Visits to the housebound and care homes
(please contact the parish priest to arrange)

PJ Fletcher RIP

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

No public Mass today in the church (*Chrism Mass at St George's Cathedral*)
5.00pm-6.30pm Confessions

THURSDAY 2ND

MAUNDY THURSDAY

4.00pm-5.00pm Confessions
8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
11.00pm Night Prayer of the Church

Irene West RIP

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
3.00pm Solemn Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord
6.00pm-7.00pm Confessions
7.00pm Stations of the Cross

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

HOLY SATURDAY

8.30am-9.30am Confessions
10.00am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
12noon Blessing of Easter Food
8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass (begins with the Service of Light)

The Smoker Family

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

*People of the Parish
David Baskerville RIP (10th anniversary)*

Confessions Fridays: 5.30 pm–6.00 pm, Saturdays: 10.15 am–10.45 am
First Friday of the Month: 10.00 am–11 am

Adoration Thursdays: 10.00 am–11.00 am, Fridays: 10am–11am
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

Holy Week: A Time to Remain Rooted in Prayer

Last Thursday, I went to my previous parish for the funeral of a devoted woman who loved Jesus and his Blessed Mother, **Mary Akinduro**. Fr Matthew spoke beautifully about her life, and many were deeply moved. Shortly before she died, she had attended Mass, and later she was found in her home, kneeling with the rosary in her hands, as if she had begun to pray when she felt unwell. Even the paramedic said, *"I would like to die like this woman."*

In these days of Holy Week, we are reminded of the centurion who, after seeing how Jesus died, said, *"Truly, this man was the Son of God."* Like that moment, we see how a life—and even the moment of death—can speak powerfully. This calls us to the Lord's words: *"Stay awake and pray."* May he find us always close to him.

As we enter Holy Week, we are invited to walk closely with the Lord in these sacred days. The Gospel readings that lead us into Holy Week show growing opposition to Jesus—questions, accusations, and rejection—revealing that even before the Cross, he already carries deep human suffering.

On Palm Sunday, we begin with the blessing of palms and a joyful procession into the church. Yet very quickly, the liturgy turns to the Passion of the Lord. This reminds us how easily joy can turn into sorrow, how welcome can become rejection, and how quickly life can change—from joy to suffering, from health to illness, from peaceful moments to difficult situations.

From the Cross to the silence of Holy Saturday and the joy of Easter, we are not only remembering these events, but entering into the mystery of our salvation.

In the Stations of the Cross, we see how Jesus accepts the path given to him, even to death. This invites us to reflect on our own lives—to accept our crosses, the ups and downs, the struggles we did not choose, and even the death that awaits us, with whatever pains may accompany it, uniting all with Christ. During this week, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available, with a reflection prepared to help us prepare well. Let us remain rooted in prayer, keeping a quiet heart even in our daily duties. Let this Holy Week be a kind of personal retreat for each of us.

Let us make this week different. Let us give time to prayer, silence, and the presence of God, and, if possible, take part in the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. We walk with Jesus not as spectators, but as disciples, placing our burdens before the Cross with trust.

The Resurrection is near. As we celebrate each year the Passion and death of the Lord, we also know how the story ends—with the Resurrection on the third day. Yet during this Holy Week, we are invited to enter more deeply into the sorrow, grief, and uncertainty experienced by Our Blessed Lady and the disciples. In this journey, we are not alone. The saints walk with us, and in a special way, Our Blessed Mother accompanies us, praying for us and leading us to her Son.

May this Holy Week help us remain faithful in every moment—both in joy and in suffering—and walk with Christ towards new life.

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on us. Amen.

Fr Mebrate Desalegn

Easter Collections

The collections at mass **on Easter Sunday** are traditionally for the priest of the parish. I'm very grateful for your continued generosity.

Incident

If you are the driver involved in the incident where a school fence was damaged on **Sunday, 15th March at 8.35am**, please contact **Fr Mebrate Desalegn** ASAP.

No English Martyrs Catholic Youth Club this Friday

Youth Club won't be running Youth Club this Friday due to the **Good Friday**. Next English Martyrs Catholic Youth Club will meet on **Friday, 1st May, at 6:30 pm until 8.30 pm** in the **St. John Fisher Room**.

SPUC

The SPUC are having a **meeting on Fri 10th April in the St John Fisher Room at 7pm**. If you want to know more about this please come and join us, we will be discussing the silent witness which will be held **on 2nd May at Rochester train station**.

Gift aid

For those, who donate their money by **gift-aid envelopes**, please find the **new envelopes in the Sacristy**.

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: David Day, Therese Lenihan, Thomas Gibbon, Evelyn Berry, Kevin Farrell, Richard Brookman, Henry Kane, Abel Blackwood, Gabriel Farrell, Michelle Borg, Maureen Shepley, William Hughes, Stephen Pettitt, Irene West, Eileen Hepplewhite, Anne McQuire, Karen Hill, Michael Synott, Ann MacDonald, Sylvia Garrett, William Harris, Terry Denyer, Joyce Moodley.

Don't Forget: The Clocks Go Forward! 🕒

Please remember that **British Summer Time** begins at 1:00 am this Sunday, **29th March**. Clocks go forward by one hour.

Easter Triduum Readers: Holy Thursday - Peter Weller. Good Friday - Andrew Capone. Easter Vigil (8pm Saturday) - Miretta Cannavina, Pauline Flippance, Sue Hibbett, Sister Augustine, Ehi Omorogbe-Amu, I've Omorogbe-Amu, Erica Chibali and Monica O'Brien.

Would all Readers please ensure they are in Church well before the Masses and Liturgy begin to allow time to check your reading. **Full details can be found in the Church porches.**

Singing at Easter Triduum

There will be short **practices to warm up our voices before each of the main services on Thursday (evening) Friday (Solemn Liturgy) and Saturday (Vigil).**

These will start half an hour before each service, all are welcome to join, regardless of whether you have attended any of the weekly practices.

We ask especially for singers to come and sit near the piano for the Easter Vigil on Saturday so that together, we can strongly lead the congregation in song.

Tea and coffee

No tea and coffee after 1030 Mass this Sunday (29th) as hall will be used to bless the palms. There will be a short practice of new Easter music in the church straight after 1030 Mass on Palm Sunday for all to listen and sing.

The Annual Rosary Crusade for the Unborn Child

It started Wed 25th March, on the Feast of the Annunciation when we say our first rosary and thereafter it is **once a week every Saturday** up until Christmas Day. There are leaflets in the porches for more information.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

A message from Bishop Paul Hendricks. I warmly invite you to join me on this year's **SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21 to 28 August 2026**.

Details: www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-ca/

We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any)

at www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026

For more information, please contact **Canon Edward Perera** (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) or **Deacon John Fogarty** (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk) or **Bishop Paul Hendricks** (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) - Discerning God's Call in your life

15th - 17th May, Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org To register: <https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Monday & Tuesday of Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Mass

10.00 am – 12.00 noon: Confessions

Afternoon: Visits to the housebound and care homes

(please contact the parish priest to arrange)

Wednesday of Holy Week

No morning Mass (*Chrism Mass at St George's Cathedral*)

5.00 pm – 6.30 pm: Confessions

Easter Triduum

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm: Confessions

8.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Watching before the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose

11.00 pm Night Prayer of the Church

Good Friday – 3rd April

9.30 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

3.00 pm Solemn Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

6.00 pm – 7.00 pm: Confessions

7.00 pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday – 4th April

8.30 am – 9.30 am: Confessions

10.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

12.00 pm Blessing of Easter Food

8.00 pm Easter Vigil Mass (*begins with the Service of Light*)

Easter Sunday – 5th April

8.30 am Holy Mass

10.30 am Holy Mass

Easter Week (Monday – Sunday)

Easter Monday – 6th April

6.00 pm Holy Mass

Easter Tuesday – 7th April

9.30 am Holy Mass

Easter Wednesday – 8th April

9.30 am Holy Mass

Easter Thursday – 9th April

9.30 am Holy Mass

10.00 am – 11.00 am Adoration

Easter Friday – 10th April

7.00 pm Holy Mass

Saturday – 11th April

9.30 am Holy Mass

10.00 am – 12.00 noon Adoration

5.45 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday – 12th April

8.30 am Holy Mass

10.30 am Holy Mass

Latin Hymns and Prayers

As we prepare for the Easter Triduum, we will include a few simple Latin prayers and hymns in our liturgies, with texts

available for those who would like to become familiar with them. Latin is the official language of the Roman Catholic Church, especially for the liturgy, official documents (such as encyclicals), and canon law. It helps to express the unity of the Church across the world. At the same time, the Church makes wide use of local languages in the Mass, so that people can understand and participate more fully, and today Italian is often used as a working language in the Vatican. For this reason, when the Church made wider use of the vernacular in the liturgy after the Second Vatican Council, some familiar Latin chants were gently retained in the Missal as a sign of the unity and universality of the Church. There is also a simple pastoral value in this. When Catholics move to a new place where they do not yet know the language or customs, they take time to learn and adjust. Yet hearing a few familiar Latin prayers or hymns can help them recognise the same faith, feel at home, and be reminded of their earlier devotion. The Church expresses this in the phrase '*lex orandi, lex credendi*': the way we pray shapes what we believe. These shared prayers connect us with generations of Christians across time and place. As we approach the Easter Triduum and the Easter season, this is a gentle invitation. Those who wish are welcome to become familiar with a few simple texts, such as the Kyrie, Gloria, Pater Noster, and Pange Lingua (by Saint Thomas Aquinas), and to join in singing them with the parish choir where appropriate. Simple and trusted online resources are available, and a few suggestions are included at the end of the texts for anyone who would like to practise at their own pace. May these prayers help us to grow in faith, unity, and devotion as we journey towards Easter.

1. **Pange Lingua** (*YouTube: Sunday 7pm Choir | Catholic & Christian Choral Music – Pange Lingua | Latin with English translation*)

Pange, lingua, gloriósi
Córporis mystérium,
Sanguínisque pretiósí,
Quem in mundi prétium
Fructus ventris generósi
Rex effúdit géntium.

Nobis datus, nobis natus
Ex intácta Vírgine,
Et in mundo conversátus,
Sparso verbi sémíne,
Sui moras incolátus
Míro clausit órđine.

In suprémæ nocte coenæ
Recúmbens cum frátribus
Observáta lege plene
Cibis in legálibus,
Cibum turbæ duodénæ
Se dat suis mánibus.

Verbum caro, panem verum
Verbo carnem éfficít:
Fitque sanguis Christi merum,
Et si sensus déficit,
Ad firmándum cor sincérum
Sola fides súfficit.

Tantum ergo sacraméntum
Venerémur cernuí:
Et antíquum documéntum
Novo cedat rítui:
Præstet fides suppleméntum
Sénsuum deféctui.

Genitóri, Genitóque
Laus et jubilátio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedíctio:
Procedénti ab utróque
Compar sit laudátio. Amen.

2. Kyrie (*YouTube: Kyrie VIII – Gregorian Chant, Brébeuf Hymnal*)

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

3. Gloria in Excelsis Deo (*YouTube: Sunday 7pm Choir:Gloria | Latin Chant with Lyrics*)

Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis.
Laudámus te,
benedícimus te,
adorámus te,
glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex caléstis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.

Dómine Fili Unigénite, Iesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi,
miserére nobis;
qui tollis peccáta mundi,
súscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserére nobis.

Quóniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dóminus,
tu solus Altíssimus,
Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spíritu:
in glória Dei Patris. Amen.

4. Sanctus (*YouTube: Antoine Daniel Mass – Sanctus VIII, Gregorian Chant*)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

5. Pater Noster (*YouTube: Pater Noster – Saint John Paul II, 1982*)

Pater noster, qui es in caelis,
sanctificetur Nomen tuum.
Adveniat regnum tuum.
Fiat voluntas tua,
sicut in caelo et in terra.
Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,
et dimitte nobis debita nostra
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem,
sed libera nos a malo.

6. Regina Caeli (*YouTube: Warren Busuttil- Regina Caeli, Gregorian Chant*)

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

7. Agnus Dei (*YouTube: Tu Es Petrus – Agnus Dei, Catholic Latin Hymn*)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.