

PRESBYTERY
37 Frindsbury Road,
Strood, ME2 4JA
01634717582
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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

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shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH DEACON

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07958 677299

PARISH SISTER

Sr. Augustine Day
01474 569565

PARISH SECRETARY

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SAFEGUARDING

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PARISH WEBSITE

www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org

DONATIONS

*This parish is part of the RCAOS registered
Charity Number 1173050*

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

**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
312

WEEKLY COLLECTION
GIFT AID £325.21
NON-GIFT AID £429.16

TOTAL £754.37



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'
STROOD**

August
Immaculate Heart of Mary



✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 9TH AUGUST 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 381

SUNDAY 9TH

NINETEENTH SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass

People of the Parish

10.30am Sung Mass

Mr Paddy Gallagher RIP (9th RIP anniv)

MONDAY 10TH

FERIA

No public mass today

TUESDAY 11TH

SAINT CLARE

1.00pm Funeral mass *Liam Cooney*

WEDNESDAY 12TH

FERIA

1.00pm Funeral mass *Noreen Chambers*

THURSDAY 13TH

FERIA

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

Ken Drick Birthday thanksgiving

FRIDAY 14TH

SAINT MAXIMILIAN MARY COLBE

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

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

Holy Souls

SATURDAY 15TH

FERIA

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

Orlando Quintero Cala RIP

Patricia Colgan RIP (4th anniv.)

SUNDAY 16TH

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8.30am Said Mass

People of the Parish

10.30am Sung Mass

Anthony Grierson RIP

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 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

THE LORD IS WITH US EVEN WHEN WE STRUGGLE

This Sunday's readings assure us that the Lord remains with us, even when life becomes difficult and we struggle to recognise his presence.

In the First Reading, the prophet Elijah is exhausted, afraid and overwhelmed. At an earlier moment, he had even asked God to take his life. We too may sometimes feel overwhelmed and wonder where God is. Elijah looked for God in the powerful wind, the earthquake and the fire, but God was not in them. Then came the sound of a gentle whisper, and Elijah recognised his presence. God does not always come to us in dramatic ways. Often, he comes quietly—in prayer, in the Scriptures, in the kindness of another person, or in the strength that enables us to take one more step. In the Gospel, the disciples are in a small boat, struggling against the wind and the waves. Jesus had been alone in prayer, but his prayer did not separate him from them. He saw their struggle and came to them upon the water. His presence renewed their faith and gave them courage.

From the earliest days of Christianity, the boat has been seen as a symbol of the Church. The Church has passed through persecution, controversy and painful divisions, but God has never abandoned her. He has continued to raise Apostles and Saints, people such as St Athanasius, St Francis of Assisi, St Ignatius of Loyola and, in more recent times, St John Paul II—to guide and strengthen his people.

The waves of life also affect individuals and families. This past week, our parishioners Steve and Julie, together with their family and friends, grieved the death of their daughter Rebecca Alice Maufe, whose Funeral Mass was celebrated here on Wednesday. It was an especially difficult moment for her twelve-year-old son, Mason, who came to say goodbye to his mother. During the homily, I said to him:

“Mason, although you are only twelve, you are old enough to remember so much of what your mum gave you. Her love has become part of you and part of the person you will become. As you grow, you may remember something she said, a place you visited together or something that made you both laugh. Let those memories guide and strengthen you. At important moments, you might ask yourself, ‘What would make Mum proud?’ Always remember how deeply she loved you.”

This coming Tuesday, 11 August, at 1.00 pm, we shall also have the funeral of Liam Cooney. I have already met his grieving mother, Lesley, and his sister, Dani, and I continue to keep them in my prayers. During my absence, Fr Shinoj and Deacon John will be there to support the family and lead the funeral.

Like Elijah and the disciples, we may sometimes feel afraid, exhausted or alone. Yet the Lord sees what we are going through and comes to us in the middle of it. Welcoming Christ into our lives does not mean that we will never face storms, but it assures us that we do not face them alone.

Christ also comes to us through the prayers and care of the Christian community. As we mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, our Archbishop has invited us to see this special Franciscan year as a time of conversion and renewal. One sign of that renewal is to remember that the parish is a family, especially at the time of death.

The early Franciscan tradition taught that when a member of the Franciscan fraternity, a brother or sister, died, the community should be informed so that everyone could gather for the funeral and unite in prayer. In the same spirit, when our circumstances allow, attending the funeral of a fellow parishioner is a beautiful way of praying for the deceased and supporting the grieving family. Through Christ, we are brothers and sisters.

Of course, work, health, family responsibilities or other commitments may prevent us from attending. We can still remember the deceased and the family in our personal prayers. When we can attend, the Funeral Mass unites us with Christ's sacrifice on Calvary and with the whole Church, including those who have gone before us. It is a precious spiritual gift that we can offer to the person who has died.

May our loved ones, and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

MASSES AND CLERGY COVER IN AUGUST

Fr Mebrate will be away from Thursday 6 August until Friday 28 August.

Sunday 9 August: Canon Liam Gallagher will celebrate Mass at 10.30 am.

Fr Shinoj will celebrate the other weekday Masses, while **Fr Geoffrey Pointer** will assist with the weekend Masses. We thank all the priests for their generous support.

On Sunday 13 September, we will be delighted to welcome Canon Victor Darlington, who will celebrate the 10.30 am Mass as we begin our new pastoral year.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEPARTED:

As one parish family, we share a responsibility to pray for our departed and, whenever possible, attend their funerals to support their families.

- Liam Cooney – Tuesday 11 August at 1.00 pm
- Noreen Chambers – Wednesday 12 August at 1.00 pm

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

PILGRIM MADONNA

The parish Pilgrim Madonna statue is available to be welcomed to homes, for a period of one week to one month.

This is a wonderful way to allow Our Blessed Mother to foster family prayer.

Please contact Chioma McMorro, text 07411112463 or email sylverlyn_chioma@yahoo.com.

**Interested in becoming Catholic?
Seeking Baptism for your child?
Enquiring about First Holy
Communion or Confirmation?
Please contact the parish:
strood@rcaos.org.uk**

NEW SACRISTY RESPONSABILITY: Following Sr Augustine's retirement, Clare Di Fede has kindly taken responsibility for the sacristy, including preparations for Mass and flower arranging. Catherine Capone will assist her with the altar linens and other duties. We thank them both for their generous service.

COURSE FOR MARRIED AND ENGAGED COUPLES

Growing in Faith Together is a four-session online course helping married couples enrich their relationship and engaged couples explore their faith together.

Sessions take place via Zoom at 8.30 pm on 8, 15, 22 and 29 September.

To book, contact Carole: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk.

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: Patrick Gallagher, Winifred Collinson, Ernest Edmondson, Brenda Simmons, James Cruttenden, Mary King, Hilda Martin, John Hodson, Leslie Gadsden, Catherine O'Kane, Mary Lyons, Arthur Thorogood, Frank Shannon, Hilday Bailey, Francis Moore, Caroline Burke-Masters, John Owen Cryan, Richard Cooke.