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**PARISH WEBSITE**  
[www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org](http://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*

*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

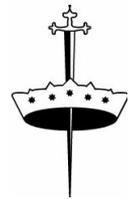
**ATTENDANCE**  
**360**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**  
GIFT AID £233.20  
NON-GIFT AID £454.00

**TOTAL £687.20**



# ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD



JANUARY  
The Holy Name and Childhood of Jesus

**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 65**

### SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

#### SECOND SUNDAY

8.30am Said mass

*People of the Parish*

10.30am Sung mass

*In thanks to Yannick and his team  
at the Hotel Padone in Lourdes*

### MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

#### SAINT WULSTAN

No public mass today

### TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

#### SAINT FABIAN

9.30am Holy Mass

*Death anniversary*

### WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

#### SAINT AGNES

12.00 noon Funeral mass *Floretta Cecilia Lewis*

### THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

#### SAINT VINCENT

9.30am Holy Mass

*Mrs Margaret Hegarty*

10.00am–11.00am Adoration

### FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

#### FERIA

9.30am Holy Mass

*Bernard Hepplewhite Family wellbeing*

5.30pm Adoration

6.30pm Holy Mass

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

### SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

#### SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

9.30am Holy Mass

*Dennis Holdbrook RIP*

10.00am–12noon Adoration

6.00pm Vigil Mass

*James and Monica O'Brien*

### SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

#### THIRD SUNDAY

8.30am Said mass

*Bernadette Foster intentions*

10.30am Sung mass

*People of the Parish*

#### 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

## “Shema Israel... Listen, Israel... Listen, my child.”

This week, during our First Holy Communion class, Clare and I were very pleased with the children. They listened attentively, behaved with kindness, and prayed with reverence. At the end of the session, I told the children that I would write to their parents to say how proud we were of them — and I am very happy to do so.

Despite the rain, parents arrived on time, faithfully bringing their children to the class. At the end, it was a quietly moving moment to see parents waiting patiently as each child was safely entrusted back to them. It reminded us how deeply parents love their children and how much care they give — not only for their present needs, but also for their future, including their faith.

This experience echoes the story of Samuel in the weekday readings. His mother, Hannah, prayed earnestly for a child, and when God answered her prayer, she dedicated her son back to the Lord. With the guidance of Eli the priest, Samuel learned to listen to God’s voice. A child learned to recognise God because faithful adults helped him to listen.

For generations, Jewish families have passed on their faith with the words *Shema Israel — Listen, Israel*. Wherever they lived, their homes became places of prayer, teaching, and faithful living. This is a powerful reminder for us today.

A Christian home is more than just a place to live; it is a place where faith is shared. When families bring their children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, they are saying that faith matters. The parish supports this journey, but parents remain the first teachers of faith — through prayer at home, conversation, encouragement, and example.

In this Ordinary Time of the Church, we remember that God often works through ordinary family life. Jesus himself spent many years growing up quietly in Nazareth. The home was the place where God prepared him for his mission.

May our homes continue to be places where children learn to listen to God, and where faith is lived with love and joy, as they prepare to welcome Jesus more deeply through the sacraments.

*Shema Israel... Listen, Israel... Listen, my child.*

Father Mebrate

## St George’s Cathedral Second Collection 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](http://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](http://rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist).

## ‘White Flower Appeal’

There will be a second collection for the **SPUC White Flower appeal this weekend of 17/18th Jan** to promote the right to life from conception to natural death. Currently there are two threats in Parliament: firstly, to push through the right to terminate a baby in the womb at 39 weeks, a week before the baby is born, and secondly to allow assisted suicide in the UK. Please remember the SPUC in your prayers and any donations you are able to make will help them continue in their efforts to bring healing, hope and respect for life at this critical time.

## SPUC Concert for Life

The SPUC group are holding their annual **Concert for Life**, an evening of music and song on **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](http://www.tinyurl.com/lourdes26)

For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit our website at [www.tinyurl.com/scysl](http://www.tinyurl.com/scysl)

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Deacon John and his wife Judith are making a short **Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 8th until Thursday 12th February for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**. Flights are from London Heathrow to Toulouse staying the Hotel Eliseo on a Full Board basis. Please contact **Tangney Tours direct on 01732 886666 to book**.

## Summer Theatre Trip 29 July 2026

We have secured a block booking of 34 tickets to see a stage performance of **Jesus Christ Superstar showing for a limited period at the London Palladium (evening performance)**. Travel will be by coach; recommended age is 10 years and over. **Ticket price is £55 payable on reservation (by 31 January)** Seats are in the Dress Circle rows G, H and I.

**Return coach fare will be approx. £20 (payable in July)** Please use sign-up sheets in both porches.

## Gift aid using Dona contactless card machine

Please use the QR code to register for your Gift aid donations.



**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:** Phyllis Evans, Sheila Devlin, James McNama, Eileen Decker, Patrick Woods, Peter McConnon, James Mulloy, Josef Winiarski, Monica Richards, James Kelly, Ambrose Cox, Olive Hall, Patricia Sawyer, Patrick Burke, Nelia Uden, Dennis Holdbrook, Anthony Williams.