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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

Rev. John Letley
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

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
368

WEEKLY COLLECTION

GIFT AID £262.00
NON-GIFT AID £556.88
TOTAL £818.88



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'
STROOD**

The Month of May is Mary - Dedicated to
the Mother of God



✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 10TH MAY 2026

Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 293.

The Ascension of the Lord pg. 297

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am Said Mass
10.10am Holy Rosary
10.30am Sung Mass

Anna Rosa Calabria

People of the Parish

MONDAY 11TH

FERIA

1.00pm Holy Mass

Eamonn Nally RIP

TUESDAY 12TH

SAINTS NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS

9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.30am Holy Rosary

John Trollope RIP

WEDNESDAY 13TH

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.30am Holy Rosary

Sarah, Bruce and Sophie Brown

THURSDAY 14TH

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.30 am Adoration and Holy Rosary
7.00pm Holy Mass

For the most forgotten Souls in the Purgatory

Sister Augustine's intentions and wellbeing

FRIDAY 15TH

SAINT JOHN STONE

9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.30 am Adoration and Holy Rosary
7.00pm Holy Mass

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

Peggy and Fr Bill O'Brien RIP

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

SATURDAY 16TH

SAINT SIMON STOCK

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

Deacon John's wellbeing

Pat and Stan Skillet RIP

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30am Said Mass
10.10am Holy Rosary
10.30am Sung Mass

People of the Parish

Mary Kelly 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 10.00-10.30am

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

Sister Augustine's Service Sustained by the Holy Spirit

Today we announce officially that Sister Augustine will retire from her regular parish service from Pentecost onwards. God willing, she will still continue to join us for worship whenever circumstances allow. We thank God for her many years of faithful prayer, presence, and service within our parish community.

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus speaks to His disciples before His Passion and promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate. Jesus knows He will no longer remain physically present with them in the same way, yet He reassures them: "I will not leave you orphans."

Jesus gave His life for us on the cross, but even before Calvary, He was already giving Himself daily through His ministry—teaching, healing, forgiving, and serving others with love.

And after His Ascension, the Holy Spirit continued the work of Christ through His people. In difficult moments, the Spirit raised up saints like Saint Maximilian Kolbe. But the Holy Spirit also continues His work quietly through ordinary sacrifices: parents working two or three jobs for their families, people caring patiently for the sick, and religious sisters and priests dedicating their lives to prayer and service.

Every parish community is sustained not only by visible activities but also by hidden sacrifices, faithful prayer, and people who quietly give themselves for others. Sister Augustine has been part of this faithful witness among us for many years. Through her prayer, presence, and service, the Holy Spirit has continued His work within this parish community.

I will also be arranging a meeting with parishioners so that we can begin preparing a well-deserved celebration of thanksgiving for Sister Augustine. We will continue to keep the parish updated in the coming weeks.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our parish family, and may Our Lady in May pray for us and keep us close to her Son.

Fr Mebrate

ASCENSION OF THE LORD – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Next Thursday, 14th May 2026, is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Masses at English Martyrs Church will be celebrated at **9.30am and 7.00pm**.

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA

We announce that Frank Odiase will replace Jude Onavwie during the Installation of Council Officers. We thank Jude for his service and ask your prayers for Frank as he begins this new responsibility. May the Lord guide and strengthen all the officers in their service to the Church and parish community.

Bishop Paul Hendricks

Bishop Paul Hendricks will be making a presentation regarding the **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in August**. The presentation will be at **7pm on Saturday 16th May following the Vigil Mass at 6pm at English Martyrs RC Church in Strood**. The venue is the Parish Hall. There is plenty of parking in the school playground adjacent to the church and Parish Hall. Tea and coffee will be available. If you are at all interested in this pilgrimage do not miss this opportunity to learn more.

Before and After Mass – Prayer and Reflection

Please keep a **prayerful silence before and after Mass**, as we come with our own struggles and some remain in quiet prayer.

Even in challenges, **God shows us the way and walks with us**. Jesus says, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life,*" giving us not just a path, but Himself.

In Holy Mass we enter a **sacred mystery**, where through the Holy Spirit the bread and wine become the **Body and Blood of Christ**, given to us for eternal life, **transforming us in His love**.

Go before us, O Lord, in this our prayer and praise, that what we believe we may live, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

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

Pentecost choir practices

We will have choir practices on **Tuesday 12 May and Tuesday 19th May 6.30 to 7.30 pm in the church**. These will be for us to prepare music for the 1030 Mass on **Pentecost Sunday 24 May**. All are welcome

National cakes

We will have a **special Tea and Coffee in the hall after 1030 Mass on Pentecost Sunday 24th May**. We would like to sample different national cakes or savouries (finger food only please) so please take part and bring your bakes to the hall **from 09.45 on Pentecost Sunday**. Thank you.

Eamonn Nally

Eamonn Nally passed away recently and his funeral has taken place elsewhere. However, because Eamonn and the Nally family were parishioners at this Church for decades, his Mother, Sally and family have organised a Memorial Mass at English Martyrs Church on **Monday 11th May 1p.m.** Everyone is welcome to attend. Followed by refreshments at The Inn On The Lake Hotel, Shorne, Gravesend. DA12 3HB.

Parish Reminder

Confirmation – Fri 22 May, 6.00 pm (with Bishop Paul Hendricks)

RCIA (Pentecost) – Sun 24 May, 10.30 am

First Holy Communion – Sat 13 June, 10.30 am

Please keep all candidates in your prayers and save these dates. These are joyful celebrations for our whole parish community. You are especially encouraged to come on Friday evening to welcome the Bishop, receive his blessing, and join in the joy of our candidates who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Month of May – Devotion to Our Lady

During this month, we honour **Our Blessed Mother** in a special way.

New statue of Our Lady in the sanctuary throughout May, **Lady Chapel** reserved for personal and family prayer, **Communal Rosary** takes place in the **main body of the church, Sunday Rosary: 10:10am**, followed by **10:30am Mass**.

Weekdays: after 9:30am Mass – **Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (30 minutes)**

The annual Venerable Edel Quinn Pilgrimage

The annual Venerable Edel Quinn Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday the 9th of May at Aylesford Priory. All are welcome. Bishop Paul Hendricks will celebrate Mass at 12 p.m.'

Rosary for Life & May Devotion

Our Archbishop, John Wilson, invites us to pray the **Rosary for Life** this May, offering each mystery for those most in need—especially the unborn, the vulnerable, and the elderly. More info: rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife

In our parish, we honour Our Lady throughout May: **Sunday:** Rosary at 10:10am (before Mass at 10:30am).

Weekdays: After 9:30am Mass – **Rosary & Exposition**. All are warmly invited.

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.

Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Agnes King, Michelina Wilson, Philip McGee, Beatrice Petto, Liam Cremin, Thomas Poynton, Michael Lewis, Charles Pritchard, Freda Voight, Patrick Bond, Hilda Instance, Joyce Kemsley, William McDaid, William Gordon, Christine Wilson, Mary Kelly, Bridget Halls, Richard Smith, Ian Griffin, Emma Booth, John Davies, Violet Clarke, Teresa Mantegna.