

**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**

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**SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN**

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07958 677299

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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*

**ENGLISH MARTYRS  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Headmistress Ms Catherine Thacker  
Frindsbury Road, Strood  
ME2 4JA  
01634 718964

*A member of Kent Catholic Schools Partnership*

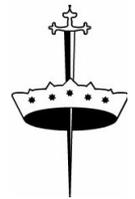
**LAST WEEK  
ATTENDANCE  
423**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**  
GIFT AID £381.47  
NON-GIFT AID £572.81  
**TOTAL £954.28**

**DIRECT DEBIT FEBRUARY**  
GIFT AID £625.00  
NON-GIFT AID £365.00  
**TOTAL £990.00**



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'  
STROOD**



**MARCH  
St. Joseph**

**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 144**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung mass

*For the Soul of Tadeusz Poreba in 9<sup>th</sup> death  
Anniversary  
People of the Parish*

**MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>  
SAINT TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO**  
No public mass today

**TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>  
FERIA**  
9.30am Holy Mass

*Repose Soul Kelly Day*

**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>  
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**  
9.30am Holy Mass  
6pm-7pm Choir practice

*Charles and Mary Hill RIP*

**THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>  
FERIA**  
9.30am Holy Mass  
10am-11am Adoration

*For the forgotten Souls in the Purgatory*

**FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
FERIA**  
9.30am Holy Mass  
10.00am-11am Adoration  
6.30pm Holy Mass

*(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

*Repose Souls of Lydia Green, Urbana,  
Tomas Lapedario, Tambis Families*

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

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup>  
FERIA**  
9.30am Holy Mass  
10.00am-12noon Adoration  
6.00pm Vigil Mass

*Natalia Collins Wellbeing*

*John Taczynski RIP*

**SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>  
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*

**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

## God works quietly in our lives

During the week leading up to this Sunday, we celebrated Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph, and their witness helps us to understand this Sunday more deeply.

In this Lenten season, we are reminded that God often works quietly, especially in moments we do not fully understand.

Saint Patrick, as a young man, was taken from his home and brought to Ireland as a captive. It was a difficult and hidden time, yet it became a time of prayer and transformation. God was preparing him quietly. Later, Patrick returned as a missionary, bringing the faith to the people of Ireland.

In later history, the people of Ireland also faced great suffering during the potato famine. Many were forced to leave their homeland in search of life elsewhere. It was a painful time, but they carried their faith with them. In many parts of the world, especially in English-speaking countries, that faith grew and became a strong foundation for the Church. In this way, God was able to bring something good even out of suffering.

Saint Joseph, a just and quiet man, also teaches us this same truth. When he faced a situation he did not understand, he chose not to hurt or expose Mary, but to act with mercy. He remained open to God, and God guided him.

This Sunday, we hear the Gospel of Lazarus. Jesus wept for his friend. This shows us that our Lord understands our sorrow. He is not distant from our pain.

In our own lives, we may face challenging situations, within our families, in relationships, or in caring for those who are unwell or struggling. These moments are not easy, and we do not say they are good or desirable in themselves. Yet, within them, God can give us something deeper: patience, compassion, and the strength to support one another and remain united.

Sometimes, like Martha, we may express our pain or even our frustration: *“Lord, if you had been here...”* Yet even in those moments, God is not absent. He is close to us.

We can also reflect that Saint Joseph died at some point. For Jesus and His mother Mary, this must have been a time of sorrow. Even in the Holy Family, there was suffering. And so, whatever we go through, we are not alone; the Lord who understands our pain is with us.

The raising of Lazarus reminds us of something even deeper: death does not have the final word. What seemed like the end becomes a moment of God’s glory and new life.

Like Saint Patrick in his hidden years, and Saint Joseph in his quiet obedience, we are invited to trust God in our own difficult moments. Times of struggle are not wasted—they can be moments when God is preparing us for something greater.

As Christians, we follow the path of Christ: through suffering to new life, through the Cross to the Resurrection.

May we learn in this Lenten season to be more prayerful, more patient, and more open, trusting that God is at work, even when we cannot see it. Amen.

Fr Mebrate

## The Annual Rosary Crusade for the Unborn Child

It starts next **Wed 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Please join us spiritual in saying the rosary especially as in Parliament they are voting to legalise abortion up until the day before the baby is born. There are leaflets in the porches for more information.

**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:** Thomas Cooney, Marjorie Patmore, Joan Burden, Owen Mendes, Teresa Caulfield, Betty Whattler, Dennis McCarthy, Edward Holmes, Eily Brigg, Kathy Hunt, Patricia Travers, Kathleen Crotty, Joan Thorogood, Charles Gallagher, Tom Mason.

## Mothers Prayer group

This **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, Mothers Prayer group will meet at **7 pm** in the church. **Church cleaning at 6pm.** Any help is highly appreciated.

## Easter Music Update

Practice next **Weds 25<sup>th</sup> March** (no practice Tuesday).

## Tea and coffee

**No tea and coffee after 1030 Mass next week (29<sup>th</sup>)** 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.

## Don't Forget: The Clocks Go Forward! 🕒

Please remember that **British Summer Time** begins at 1:00 am next Sunday, **29<sup>th</sup> March**. Clocks go forward by one hour. We would hate for anyone to miss the start of our **Palm Sunday** celebrations, so please remember to adjust your clocks before heading to bed on Saturday night!

## 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**. A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, or elderly or disabled. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at [www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-ca/](http://www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-ca/) Deacon John and Judith Letley will be on the Pilgrimage and staying at the Hotel Eliseo, a two-minute walk from the Sanctuary, along with other pilgrims from our Archdiocese. Deacon John is happy to lead a group from our parish and asks that after you have booked you let him know.

We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at [www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026](http://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026)

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

## Gift aid

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

Thank you for your generous donations!

If you **would like to start donating using gift aid**, please contact Anna in the Parish office or email her on: [strood@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:strood@rcaos.org.uk)