

**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  
[mebratedesalegn@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mebratedesalegn@rcaos.org.uk)

**SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN**

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[shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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**

Kate Taylor  
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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**

**424**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

GIFT AID £282.72  
NON-GIFT AID £630.11

**TOTAL £912.83**



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'  
STROOD**

April  
The Blessed Sacrament



**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 271**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

8.30am Said Mass *People of the Parish*  
10.30am Sung Mass *David Baskerville RIP (10<sup>th</sup> anniversary)*

**MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

6.00pm Holy Mass *Holy Souls*

**TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

9.30am Holy Mass *Eamonn Nally RIP*

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

9.30am Holy Mass *Rob and Sue wedding anniversary*

**THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

9.30am Holy Mass *Stephen Pettitt RIP*  
10.00am-11.00am Adoration

**FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

7.00pm Holy Mass *Liz Fiorani*

**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

9.30am Holy Mass *Repose Souls of Lydia Green, Urbana,  
Tomas Lapedario, Tambis Families*

10.00am-12noon Adoration

5.45pm Vigil Mass *Arthur and Kathleen Pearl RIP*

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8.30am Said Mass *Bernadette Foster intentions*

10.30am Sung Mass *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

## Easter – The Light to Be Shared

The Easter Vigil is the principal celebration of the whole Church year. It looks back to Lent, which has prepared us, and opens into the fifty days of Easter — a time of joy and new life.

We begin in darkness. Inside and outside the church, all is dark, as if the Church has died with Christ in his Passion and burial. But on this holy night, the Church is brought back to life. The blessing of the new fire marks this beginning — a simple but powerful sign of renewal. From this fire, the Paschal Candle is lit, a clear symbol of Christ, the Light of the world — not a harsh light, but a gentle light that leads us to follow him.

As the candle is prepared, we hear: *Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega.* This reminds us that Christ is present in all time. For more than two thousand years, many ideas and powers have risen and passed away. At times, the light of Christ may seem dim — not because it has lost its power, but because of human weakness and sin. Yet it can never be overcome. No earthly power or error can extinguish it.

Then we enter the dark church in procession. The darkness reminds us of our journey through life, often uncertain and in need of light. The Paschal Candle recalls the pillar of fire and cloud that guided the people of Israel. God did not leave them alone — and he does not leave us alone. In the same way, we are called to guide and support one another, walking together in faith so that the risen Christ may be present among us.

Three times we hear: *“The Light of Christ,”* and we respond: *“Thanks be to God.”* Then the light grows little by little, shared from one person to another until the whole church is filled with light. This shows us that faith is meant to be shared. Just as the Good News of the Resurrection spread — from the women, to Peter and John, to the disciples and beyond — so too the light of Christ is passed on from one to another.

We are gathered as one community of believers, from different backgrounds but united in one faith. The risen Lord is the one who brings us together. What we receive, we share — in our families, in our parish, and in our daily lives. We also bring our struggles, our hopes, and our prayers into this light, trusting that the risen Lord walks with us.

We then hear the great Easter Proclamation: *“This is the night when Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.”* Through the readings, we journey from creation to salvation, from the Old Testament to the New, from promise to fulfilment, from darkness to light. All this leads us to the great truth of Easter: Christ is risen. Death is defeated. New life has begun. This is not only something we remember — it is a mystery we enter into. The risen Lord is alive among us, and we receive the fruits of his Resurrection especially in the sacraments, where he strengthens us, forgives us, and nourishes us.

As we continue through these fifty days of Easter, may we walk in his light, support one another in faith, and allow the risen Lord to renew our lives. This gives meaning to our journey of faith: death is not the end, there is life beyond the grave, and there is hope — the hope of rising with the Lord.

And so, as one community of faith, we share this joy and proclaim:

**Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is truly risen. Alleluia**

## 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.

## Ambassadors for Christ

A Catholic apologetics project from the Archdiocese offering clear, faith-based answers to questions such as “Is Jesus God?” and “Does prayer work?” New videos are released every Monday on YouTube, with worksheets for use in parishes, schools, and families. More information: [rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist](http://rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist)

## SPUC Meeting:

A meeting will be held on Friday 10th April at 7:00pm in the St John Fisher Room. All are welcome. The discussion will include the silent witness taking place 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.**

**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.**

## No Tea and coffee this Sunday

Please note there will not be a tea and coffee this Sunday

## Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 11th, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names, home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Contact us at [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location.

## The Annual Rosary Crusade for the Unborn Child

**It started 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. There are leaflets in the porches for more information.

## Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (2026)

Bishop Paul Hendricks warmly invites you to Lourdes: **21–28 August 2026.**

Details: [www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-ca/](http://www.tangney-tours.com/diocesepilgrimages/diocese-ca/)

Please also complete the form: [www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026](http://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026)

Contact:

Canon Edward Perera – [edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)

Deacon John Fogarty – [johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)

Bishop Paul Hendricks – [paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

## Sycamore GIFT – Growing in Faith Together:

An online course for married and engaged couples (8:30–9:30pm), developed with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team.

Four one-hour Zoom sessions to deepen love, friendship, and faith.

To book: **Carole – [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)**

Dates: 31 March; 5, 12, 19 & 26 May; 8, 15, 22 & 29 September.

**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.

**Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Mary Crawley, Mary Manley, Darren Francis, Margaret Collier, Catherine McGough, David Record, Hilda Rossiter, Delia McCann, Mary Bourke, Mary Coatsworth, Nina Cooper, Daphne Gillespie, Mary Gregory, Margot Toland, Michael Price, Denis McCarthy, Kathleen Ctaven, David Baskerville, John Power, Kathleen Gara, Deirdre Hamil, Lydia Corbett.

## 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 pretiósi,  
Quem in mundi pretium  
Fructus ventris generósi  
Rex effúdit géntium.

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

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

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

Tantum ergo sacraméntum  
Venerémur cernui:  
Et antíquum documéntum  
Novo cedat ritui:  
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 cæléstis,  
Deus Pater omnípotens.

Dómine Fili Unigénite, Iesu Christe,  
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius 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.