

**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  
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**SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN**

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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**

367

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

GIFT AID £304.00  
NON-GIFT AID £579.59

**TOTAL £883.59**



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'  
STROOD**



MARCH  
St. Joseph

**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 131**

**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

8.30am Said mass *Francisca Marchan-Farrell thanksgiving and intentions*  
10.30am Sung mass *Giovannina Cannavina intentions*

**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT FRANCES OF ROME**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass *Margaret Rosaline Boyle RIP*  
6pm-7pm Choir practice

**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass *For the forgotten Souls in the Purgatory*

**THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass *For the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Christopher Okoronkwo*  
10am-11am Adoration

**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass *(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*  
10am-12am Adoration *Cecilia Mc Evoy Happy Birthday*  
6.30pm Holy Mass *John Anthony Pymm RIP*  
7.00pm Stations of the Cross

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass *Emily and Renrick Farrell RIP*  
10.00am-12noon Adoration  
6.00pm Vigil Mass *Arthur and Kathleen Pearl RIP*

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

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: 10am–11am  
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 6.30 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

### **“Come and see – Let us invite others.”**

Two weeks ago, I came across an old copy of the *English Martyrs Parish Magazine* from September 1995. As I looked through its pages, I noticed the names of those who were serving the parish at that time: the parish clergy, including **Fr Michael Adams** and **Fr John Kenny**, the **Sisters of Mercy**, with **Sr Ann Mary** as the parish sister, and the parish catechist, **Mrs Monica O'Brien**. It was encouraging to see how many people were involved in supporting the life of the parish.

In the magazine, there were also lists and photographs of children who had received their First Holy Communion and young people who had been confirmed. One group was confirmed by Archbishop Michael Bowen on 16 October 1994, and another group by Bishop John Jukes on Tuesday, 18 July 1995.

Looking at those names reminded me of how the Lord has been working in the life of this parish for many years. And he continues to work today. Even now, we have children preparing for First Holy Communion and candidates preparing for Confirmation.

As I read through the list of candidates, I recognised one name that is still very familiar in the parish today: **Andrew Capone**. Andrew continues to be active in parish life, guiding his family in faith. He is doing his best to pass on that faith to his children, Francisco and Domenico, encouraging them to grow in devotion to the Lord. It is always beautiful to see faith being lived and shared within a family. At the same time, reading through the list also made me reflect on the many other names from those years. Life often takes people in different directions. Some may have moved away, some may continue their faith elsewhere, and some may simply be on a different path in life. We cannot always know where everyone's journey has led.

This reflection also brings to mind this Sunday's Gospel. The Gospel speaks to us about the Samaritan woman. After she encountered Jesus at the well and recognised him as the Messiah, she hurried back to her town and told the people: “Come and see.”

She did not keep that experience to herself. She became a messenger who invited others to encounter Christ.

In the same way, the Church by its very nature is missionary. This does not mean judging others or forcing anyone. Faith must always remain a free choice. But it does mean gently sharing the hope and joy we have found in Christ.

Many people today carry different struggles in life. Some families face difficult situations, and some people may feel distant from faith for many reasons. Often these situations are complex and take time, patience, and understanding.

But one truth always remains: nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. The door of the Church is always open. Like the Samaritan woman, we are invited to come to the Lord honestly, just as we are, and to place our lives before him.

Perhaps this Lenten season can be a moment for a simple invitation. If we know someone who has not been to church for a long time, we might gently say: “You are welcome to come.”

And if there are Catholic families in our area whose children have not yet received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, or Confirmation, they are warmly invited to contact the parish so that we can accompany them on that journey.

Like the Samaritan woman, each of us can become a quiet messenger of hope, simply saying to others:

**“Come and see.”**

Fr Mebrate

### **Stop assisted suicide - further action needed!**

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. Visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026) to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

### **Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) Lourdes Pilgrimage**

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) have some vacancies for their Lourdes Pilgrimage during the May half-term. **Pilgrims need to be serving or retired seafarers**. If you are interested in joining Stella Maris on pilgrimage in May, which is fully funded, please contact Reverend Deacon John Fogarty on the following mobile telephone number, 07851019134

**Our sick parishioners and friends:** Barbara Borthwick, John Paul Stoke, Betty Jones, Cathrin La Page, Lauren Allan, Tony Carroll, Sylvia Kemp, Billy Thomas, Marie Fassiomis, 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:** Cyril Foster, Jim Fearon, George Tubridy, Michael Brady, Josephine Smith, Ruth Davies, Ron Griffiths, Irene Day, Caroline Fabb, Frances Price, Theresa Collis, Herbert McMahon, Gerald Stanley, Stephen Griffin, Kay Crotty, Joan O'Connor, Frank Larkin, James Bruen, John Pymm, Bill Moriary, Josephine Gavigan, Adi Drika, Mary Bristow, Mary McConnon, George Coveney, Peter Bowner, Wenceslaus Cadette.

### **Easter Music Update**

We have been learning a new Mass setting which we will start singing at Easter. The Mass of Saint Oscar Romero has been commissioned by Archbishop John Wilson and is sung at Diocesan events such as that which took place at Aylesford last June. You can find information, music and audio recordings of the various parts on a website, <https://wheatshafmusic.co.uk/mass-of-st-oscar-romero>.

Please try and take a listen so you can join in when we start singing this lovely new Mass, or better still, attend one of our **Tuesday practice sessions 6-7pm in the church** or a special practice session which will take place on **Weds 18 March 6-7pm in the church**.

### **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))

### **Building a Better Marriage BABM**

**A one-day event in different deaneries. 9am - 4.30pm.** It's a day where couples can **privately** explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married. **There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Booking is essential.** May 23 Wallington (Sutton Deanery), June 13 Hythe (Dover Deanery), June 27th Tooting (Wandsworth Deanery), October 3 West Norwood (Lambeth Deanery). Contact Carole on: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

### **St Francis, Maidstone's Young Adults Group**

**St Francis, Maidstone's Young Adults Group** will be hosting a guest speaker at its next meeting on **this Thursday 12 March 2026**. We will meet inside the church at **19:30**, followed by a Q&A session, and a social in a nearby pub afterwards.

**All young adults (aged 18 - 35) are warmly invited to attend.** For further details please contact [youngadults@stfrancisparish.org.uk](mailto:youngadults@stfrancisparish.org.uk), or visit <https://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/young-adults-group/>