

**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**

Fr Shinoj Francis  
[shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:shinojfrancis@rcaos.org.uk)

**PARISH DEACON**

Rev. John Letley  
07958 677299

**PARISH SISTER**

Sr. Augustine Day  
01474 569565

**PARISH SECRETARY**

Anna West  
[strood@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:strood@rcaos.org.uk)

**SAFEGUARDING**

Kate Taylor  
[Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
Anthea Kwaw  
[stroodsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:stroodsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
Barbara Asaam  
[stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

**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**  
**358**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

GIFT AID £230.21  
NON-GIFT AID £469.37  
**TOTAL £699.58**

**PRIEST'S TRAINING FUND**

GIFT AID £189.00  
NON-GIFT AID £413.86  
**TOTAL £602.86**



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'  
STROOD**  
MAY  
MARY



**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 289**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

*People of the Parish*

*For the protection of the innocence of children*

**MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**THE ENGLISH MARTYRS**

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

*For the repose of the husband of Ann Power*

*Holy Souls*

**TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

No public Mass today

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT JOHN PAINE**

9.30am Holy Mass  
10.00am-10.30am Holy Rosary

*Alan Wells RIP*

**THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

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

*Mr Inacio Desa*

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

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

*(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

*Kelly Day RIP*

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

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

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

*For the peace in the World*

*Arthur and Kathleen Pearl RIP*

**SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

*Anna Rosa Calabria*

*People of the Parish*

**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

**Saturday**

Youth Club – first Friday of the month at 6.30 pm (term time)

**Sunday**

Knights of St Columba, first Saturday of the month at 7 pm

Tea and Coffee every Sunday at 11.30 am in the Parish Hall

### May Devotion: Mary Our Mother Present Among Us

As we begin the month of May, dedicated in a special way to the Blessed Virgin Mary, we give thanks to God for a beautiful gift in our parish.

We have a statue of Our Lady here in the church, as you can see, kindly donated by Catherine, who has now moved to Surrey. When she first spoke of her wish to donate a statue, I imagined something small and even suggested that she might prefer to take it with her to her new home. But she explained that it would be a larger statue, intended for the church. We are truly grateful for her generosity, and we keep her in our prayers.

Her charitable act also teaches us something important. When we keep a statue or image of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our homes—or perhaps the image of the Divine Mercy, Saint Michael the Archangel, or other saints—these are not simply decorations. They are gentle reminders for us, and especially for our children, of the presence of God, the saints, and the angels in our lives. They help us to remain recollected, not easily distracted, and to grow in a spirit of prayer.

In the same spirit, during this month, the statue of Our Lady in the sanctuary quietly reminds us of her loving presence among us whenever we gather for worship. It helps us to remember that we never come to Mass alone.

At the beginning of every Mass, we recognise the presence of the Lord among us. We also recognise the presence of one another as the Body of Christ. At the same time, we are reminded of the presence and prayer of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the saints, as we say:

*“Therefore I ask Blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.”*

We are still in the joyful season of Easter. The Risen Lord, in his glorified body, encouraged and taught the apostles who had once been fearful. After his Ascension, it was part of God’s loving plan that the Blessed Virgin Mary remained with them.

She prayed with them. She strengthened them. She shared with them the hidden mysteries of Jesus’ early life—the Annunciation, his childhood, and his infancy—things not fully spoken during his public ministry. We see this reflected especially in the Gospel, where it tells us that Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart (cf. Luke 2:19, 2:51).

In this way, after the Ascension, the apostles’ love and reverence for the Mother of Jesus grew even deeper, as they began to understand more fully her unique place in God’s plan. Mary’s mission did not end with the birth of Jesus, nor even with his death and resurrection. Rather, she continues to have a place within the life of the Church. Just as the Risen Lord continues his work among us through the sacraments and his Word, so too the Blessed Virgin Mary continues her quiet and loving mission among us.

She who was the first to receive the mystery of the Incarnation now helps us to enter more deeply into that same mystery. For this reason, as we pray the Rosary, she gently leads us to her Son—helping us to reflect on his life and to grow in faith.

The Church has always lived this trust. Last Thursday, we remembered Pope Pius V, who called the whole Church to prayer at a time of great danger, when much of Christian Europe was under threat from the Ottoman Turks. Although the number of Christian defenders was much smaller compared to the large forces of the Ottoman Empire, the Pope urged all the faithful to pray the Rosary with great faith. Through this prayer and trust in God, a surprising victory was granted. The Church recognised this as the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This reminds us not to rely only on our own strength, but to trust in God and to seek Our Lady’s help.

In a similar spirit, in more recent times, John Bosco had a deep devotion to Mary under the title *Help of Christians*. Through her help, he guided many young people to faith.

And even today, in many ways—including recognised apparitions—Our Lady continues to call people back to her Son, inviting us to repentance, to prayer, and to trust in the mercy of Jesus.

So this month of May is a special time for us. When we gather to celebrate the Holy Mass, we come not only as individuals, but as one family. We recognise the presence of God, the Risen Lord, among us. We recognise one another. And we remember that we are united also with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the saints.

May Our Lady help us to grow in faith, to remain close to her Son, and to live more deeply the mystery we celebrate.

### 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.**

**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:** Mary Gosha, John Cundell, Clare Lansdale, John Cryan, May McDonnell, Michael Toland, Lois Powell, Gillian Brewer, Virginia Falcald, Audrey Fouracre, William Hoadley, Patricia Thomas, Augustine Judge, Henry Hughes, Eileen Marshall, Michael Harrigan, Anthony Reynolds, Gerald Hogan, Anthony Agius, Joanna Butler, John Purtill, Elsie Hitchcock, Rosaleen Wynne, Mary Hammond, Michael Burnett, Sandra Zepmeisel, Monica Salter, Mary Rohan.

### Feast of the English Martyrs

Monday 4 May is the Feast of the English Martyrs, our patron saints.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at:

**9:30am and 7:00pm**

All are warmly invited to join in this special celebration.

### Safeguarding Sunday 2026

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May is Safeguarding Sunday.** In line with today’s Gospel, we are called to protect, called to care, called to act. Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday at [rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday](http://rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday) or via the QR code.



### Pentecost choir practices

We will have choir practices on **Tuesday 12 May and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.