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ENGLISH MARTYRS' STROOD

MARCH – MONTH DEDICATED TO
ST. JOSEPH



✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK – 2ND MARCH
MISSAL: PRAYERS AND READINGS pg. , PREFACE VIII pg. ,
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I pg. 487

SUNDAY 9TH

✠ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8.30 am Said Mass
10.30 am Sung Mass

Dominic Colgan
Francisca Farrell Thanksgiving and wellbeing

MONDAY 10TH

FERIA

8:30am Exposition
9.30am Mass

Margaret Rosalina Boyle RIP

TUESDAY 11TH

FERIA

No Public mass today

WEDNESDAY 12TH

FERIA

8:30am Exposition
12.00 noon Funeral Mass of John Foster

THURSDAY 13TH

FERIA

8:30am Exposition
9.30am Mass

Maureen Hogan

FRIDAY 14TH

FERIA

7.00am Mass
8:30am Exposition
9.30am Mass
6.00 pm Holy Hour

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

Ann Foster

For the goodness and protection of my Family members

SATURDAY 15TH

FERIA

9.30 am Latin Mass
10.00am Exposition
6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Peter Roy Hunt RIP

People of the Parish

SUNDAY 16TH

✠ SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8.30 am Said Mass
10.30 am Sung Mass

Diane Trollope RIP

Fe Carpio

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE
360
COLLECTION
GIFT AID £304.00
NON-GIFT AID £565.90

TOTAL £869.90

Confessions Saturdays at 10.15 am – 10.45 am and 5 pm 5.30pm.
Adoration Saturday 10 am -12 noon and 1hour before every weekday mass.
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 6.15 pm (term time)
Knights of St Columba, first Saturday of the month at 7 pm
Saturday Tea and Coffee first Sunday at 11.30 am in the Parish Hall
Sunday

Spiritual Thought

Lent begins with our making a firm decision both to give up something and to take on something extra. We give up to make space for God, and we take on something holy to allow him to act. However, as soon as a decision is made, voices rise against us. These voices can be around us "too extreme, no fun, what the point?" or can be voices within us "you're too weak, God doesn't want this, maybe there's something easier, do you think you're a saint already?". These are temptations.

Temptations come to us as the voice of reason, as the middle-road, as the easy way, as what 'everyone else is doing'. They make us want to fit in and hide.

But no one was made a saint by hiding, giving in, fitting in. We can overcome our temptations if we remember why we practice lent (as an offering to God) and keep our eyes on the one who was called us. Let us be strong in the Lord, and he will be strong within us.

Easter Music

We will start practising the music for this year's **Easter Triduum on Tuesday evenings 6pm -7pm in the St. John Fisher's room**. The first session will be on **Tuesday 11 March and everyone is welcome**.

FoodBank

Please do remember our parish food bank collection, which is taken regularly to the **Medway FoodBank**. Please do remember those less fortunate and thank you for your continued generosity.

Archdiocese of Southwark Pilgrimage to Lourdes

His Grace, Archbishop John Wilson is encouraging parishioners to travel to Lourdes with the Archdiocese of Southwark Pilgrimage between **Friday 22nd and Friday 29th August 2025, as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year. The total cost is £1127.00**. To book call **Tangney Tours on 01732 886666** stating you are booking for the Archdiocese of Southwark Pilgrimage, and your preference is London Stansted and Hotel Eliseo. You will need valid Travel Insurance and an UK Global Health Insurance Card. **For any queries please speak to Deacon John or call him on 07958 677299**.

Lenten Activities

Every Friday in Lent at 6pm we walk the Stations of the Cross in the church. Please join us to enter more deeply into the saving Passion of the Lord. After the stations we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction. This year we are also able to venerate a relic of the True Cross.

Lent Evening Retreat for Catholic Men

On Friday 14th March at St Michael's parish, Chatham there will be an evening retreat for Catholic men. Starting at **7.30pm**, The evening is led by Fr Peter Murphy.

MedwayCatholicMen@outlook.com.

A response to **'CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT'**. Could you participate in answering our Archbishop John's call to the laity of the parishes to help shape the future of the Archdiocese?

A group will meet at 11.15 a.m. on Wednesday mornings for the next 3 weeks to complete the exercise. All are welcome (and, as always, to the 'tea and coffee' which follows morning Mass. beforehand.)

If you need a priest urgently and Father Tom is not available, please ring one of the following numbers:

Fr Neil Vincent (Rochester) Tel: 01634 845430 mobile: 07522686791

Fr Peter Ehinmiro (Chatham) Tel: 01634 842886

Fr Sean O'Connor (Gillingham) Tel: 01634 852979

Fr Peter Murphy (Parkwood, Rainham) Tel: 01634 377396

Fr Emmanuel Onwu (Rainham) Tel: 01634 353771

Fr Moses Amune (Gravesend) Tel: 01474 352415

Masses this week

Please note **there will not be a morning mass this Wednesday**.

Mothers Prayer group

Next Monday, 17th March, Mothers Prayer group will meet at **7 pm** in the church. **Church cleaning at 6pm**. Any help is highly appreciated.

Thank you from Gallagher Family

The Gallagher Family would like to say a very big thank you to Fr. Tom and all Parishioners of English Martyrs for support, messages of condolences and for many mass cards we received on the death of our beloved Mother, Eileen.

Your kindness and presence at the Funeral mean more than we can say and highlights why this Parish was so important in mum in dad's life. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

A meeting for our S.P.U.C. branch (42) will be held in the St. John Fisher Room on Friday 14th March at 6.30pm.

A brief meeting to consider how we should respond to the assisted suicide bill due to be given its 3rd reading in the House of Commons at the end of April.

The Catholic Young Writer Award

The Catholic Young Writer Award is sponsored by the Catholic Union Charitable Trust. The theme for the 2025 essay is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God'. The award is open to **Years 8-11 inclusive**. **The closing date for entries is the 30th of May**. Cash prize for winner and runners-up book prizes. Details at www.cuct.org.

Fire marshal training

Fire marshal training is a legal requirement for readers (over 18 years old), sacristans, welcomers members of church's group, will take place on next **Saturday, 15th March at 10.30 am in our church**. We encourages as many parishioners as possible to attend to keep our church and community safe.

Legion of Mary

The annual Legion of Mary Acies ceremony, consecration to Our Lady, will be held in **St. Michaels church Chatham, on Saturday the 15th March at 1p.m**. Includes the Rosary, Homily and Benediction. All welcome.

Funerals

On Wednesday 12th March we will celebrate the funeral **Mass of John Foster at 12noon**, followed by the committal at **Strood Cemetery at 2pm**.

The funeral Mass of **Marie Clarke will be celebrated on Thursday 3rd April at 11am**, followed by the committal at **Hither Green Cemetery at 1:30pm**. She will be brought into the church the evening before at 4pm.

Book of Remembrance

We are able to have an **anniversary of the death of a loved one entered into the Book of Remembrance**. This is kept in the **Sacred Heart chapel**, inside the Mill Rd entrance.

Please post any request into the **presbytery with the name, date of death** and requester clearly written. A minimum contribution of **£5**.

Gift aid

We had a great response to the recent **gift aid talk and over 25 gift aid forms were taken home by parishioners to be completed and returned to us**. However, we have only received 6 of these completed forms, so just a gentle reminder to complete your forms and **return them as soon as possible to either Sue Hibbert or the parish office**.

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, Shane McNeelan, Helen and Arthur Annal, Claire Baron, Rod Black, Michael New.

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 McMahan, 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.