

PRESBYTERY

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(Mobile number for urgent pastoral needs,
including Anointing of the Sick and Holy
Communion)

PARISH PRIEST

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mebratedesalegn@rcaos.org.uk

SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN

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07958 677299

PARISH SISTER

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01474 569565

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PARISH WEBSITE

www.englishmartyrsrccstrood.org



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'
STROOD**

The Month of May is Mary - Dedicated to
the Mother of God



✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 24TH MAY 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG.305

SUNDAY 24TH MAY

PENTECOST SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

Bernadette Foster intentions
Quintero Rojas O'Brien Family

MONDAY 25TH

MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.30am Holy Rosary

Holy Souls

TUESDAY 26TH

SAINT PHILLIP NERI

9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.30am Holy Rosary

Naomi Manje Thanksgiving of safe Birth

WEDNESDAY 27TH

SAINT AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

9.30am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.30am Holy Rosary

Geogina and Liam's 3rd Wedding Anniversary

THURSDAY 28TH

LORD JESUS CHRIST

1.00pm Funeral Mass *John Trollope*

FRIDAY 29TH

SAINT PAUL VI

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

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

Brendan Hamill

Dan Curtan RIP

SATURDAY 30TH

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

*For all the volunteers in the English
Martyrs Church*

Algy Fassioms RIP

SUNDAY 31ST

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

8.30am Said Mass
10.10am Holy Rosary
10.30am Sung Mass
6.30pm Holy Rosary, Adoration & Benediction

People of the Parish

Joanna's and Lukas's Wedding Anniversary

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
359

WEEKLY COLLECTION
GIFT AID £200.60
NON-GIFT AID £389.01
TOTAL £589.61

SECOND COLLECTION
TOTAL: £247.13

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
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

Spirit-Filled Christians

This weekend, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost — the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. From the very beginning of creation, the Spirit of God was already at work, hovering over the waters and bringing order, life, and beauty out of chaos. Throughout salvation history, the Holy Spirit continues to guide, renew, strengthen, and sanctify God's people. This Pentecost weekend, we see the movement of the Holy Spirit in our own parish and in many parishes throughout the Church, as candidates receive the Sacraments and continue their journey of faith.

As this newsletter is being prepared on Friday afternoon, our parish is looking forward to the Confirmation Mass at 6.00 pm this evening with Bishop Paul Hendricks. Then on Pentecost Sunday, we will continue our celebrations with the reception of candidates into full communion with the Catholic Church and the Christian Initiation of our elect. On Friday, 22 May at the 6.00 pm Mass, we will joyfully celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for 18 candidates: **Chloe Bunketi, Edugie Inneh, Naman Nikodem Virk, Oduware Inneh, Anne Isla Etherington, Anthony Oscar Davis, Francis Oscar Baradziej, Ifechukwu Onyenwe, James Shayne Steadman, Monica Maja Soltys, Munachimso Onyenwe, Nicholas Owen Menim Okon, Nicole Menyene Okon, Rita Daniela Grace Liscoe, Sebastian Leonard Krzyzanowski, Teresa Annabel Ehi Iseghohimen, Teresa Kiera Steadman, and Thérèse Faridah Faith Lamey.** This Pentecost Sunday, we also welcome **Amy Whitehead** and **Dolly O'Connor**, who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church, and we celebrate the Christian Initiation of our elect: **Benjamin Jordan Lopos, Lacie Wright, Denny O'Connor, Habib Tejan, and Alfie Overy.** This is a great blessing for our parish and a sign that the Holy Spirit continues to renew the Church.

Before Pentecost, the apostles were gathered in the Upper Room, afraid and uncertain after the death of Jesus. Then the risen Lord came to them and said, "Peace be with you." His peace calmed their fears, filled them with joy, and prepared them to receive the Holy Spirit. The frightened apostles became brave witnesses of Christ. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the Holy Spirit is like the wind. We cannot see the wind itself, but we can see its effects. In the same way, we cannot see the Holy Spirit with our eyes, but we can recognise His work in people's lives. We see the Spirit at work when people become more gentle, humble, patient, forgiving, prayerful, and loving. We see the Spirit at work when people choose peace instead of anger, kindness instead of selfishness, and reconciliation instead of division.

Providentially, our Confirmation celebration falls on the feast of, who experienced suffering, disappointment, and many difficulties in her life. Yet she remained faithful through prayer, patience, forgiveness, and trust in God. She reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives strength even during difficult times. Although candidates and catechumens have sponsors and godparents, we should remember that it is also the responsibility of the whole parish community to welcome and support them through prayer, friendship, and good example. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people for the good of the whole Church. If we have received the gifts of faith, understanding, knowledge, or wisdom through many years as Catholics, these gifts are not personal possessions or reasons for pride. They are gifts from God, given to help and encourage others.

In this joyful time for our parish, let us not simply watch these celebrations as spectators, but receive them as a grace and invitation for all of us. Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit continues to work in every generation and in every parish community. May this weekend renew our own faith, deepen our prayer, strengthen our families, and encourage us to support one another with greater charity and hope. May the joy of our candidates and catechumens become a joy shared by the whole parish family.

May the Holy Spirit renew our parish, strengthen our families, and help all of us to become joyful and faithful witnesses of Christ.

GRATITUDE FOR SISTER AUGUSTINE

From Pentecost onwards, Sister Augustine will retire from regular parish service after many years of faithful dedication to our parish community. A **Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Sunday, 12 July at 11.00 am**, celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks. Further details and arrangements for the celebration will be shared in the coming weeks. Please keep Sister Augustine in your prayers with gratitude and affection.

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, Bonny (Bonifacio) Da Silva.

Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Raymond Clifford, Mary Cryan, James Hawkins, Lucia Farrugia, Aubrey Jamieson, William Kinsella, Dennis Doyle, Paul Wilcocks, Harry Smith, Lucy Griffin, Peter Leach, James Hicks, Henry Blackwood, Diana Lobo, Maureen Edmunds, Ken Mulrooney, Otto Beale, Noreen Micallef, Eileen Francis, Patrick Farrelly, Algy Fassioms, Agnes O'Brien, David Calnon, Jean Vance, Yvonne Marcar.

Funeral notices

The funeral service for the late **John Trollope** will take place on **Thursday, 28 May 2026 at 1.00pm** at English Martyrs Church, followed by the committal at Thames View Crematorium at 3.00pm.

Andrew Johnson's funeral will take place on **11th June at 11am** at **English Martyr's Church.**

Please remember them in your prayers. May they rest in peace.

Friday evening Mass

As the Confirmation course has now finished, there will no longer be a **regular Friday evening Mass from June, except on the First Friday of each month.**

CONCLUSION OF MAY DEVOTION

Next Sunday, 31 May at 6.30 pm, we will conclude our May devotion with the Holy Rosary, Adoration, Benediction, and a simple Marian procession inside the church. All parishioners are warmly invited to join us in prayer through the intercession of Our Lady.

PENTECOST SUNDAY – RCIA & PARISH CELEBRATION

This Sunday, we celebrate Pentecost and warmly welcome our RCIA candidates and new members into the Catholic Church at the **10.30 am Mass**. Parishioners are invited to bring some finger food to share **after Mass during tea and coffee in the hall**. You are also welcome to place a small national flag beside your food if you wish. The hall will be open from 9.30 am for donations. We will also sing some Pentecost hymns and music to the Holy Spirit, including the *Veni Creator Spiritus* (hymn book page 297). Please keep our RCIA candidates and all preparing for the sacraments in your prayers.

As our RCIA and Confirmation candidates prepare to receive the Sacraments of the Church in this week, I would warmly encourage parents, sponsors, and families to consider giving simple Catholic books as meaningful gifts to help deepen their faith. The *YOUCAT* catechism (£15), the *Jerusalem Bible* (£25), and a simple Catholic prayer book (£4) are all very helpful for growing in prayer and understanding of the Catholic faith. I would especially recommend the *YOUCAT* and the prayer book together as a very good beginning, though the Bible is also very important. These books will be available in our parish shop.

STROOD LOURDES GROUP

1984 the first Parish trip to Lourdes took place, then every year we continued to take Pilgrims, with the Jumbulance Across. However in 1993, we changed to HCPT flying both ways, staying at Hosanna House in Batres, which is fully adaptable for disabled people.

We are now planning for this year, flying from Gatwick to Biarritz - Gatwick

The dates are Saturday 29th August - Saturday 5th September. Price TBA shortly.

Please contact Rod on 01634 221881/ 07516061372