

**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  
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Barbara Asaam  
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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**

362

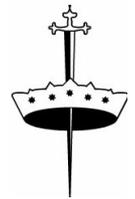
**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

GIFT AID £196.59  
NON-GIFT AID £572.45

**TOTAL £769.04**



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'  
STROOD**



MARCH  
St. Joseph

**✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**  
**Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 137**

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung mass

*Bernadette Foster intentions  
People of the Parish*

**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

No public mass today

**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT PATRICK**

9.30am Holy Mass

*Father Michael McCaughey*

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM**

9.30am Holy Mass  
6pm-7pm Choir practice

*Rebecca Maufe wellbeing*

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**SAINT JOSEPH**

9.30am Holy Mass  
10am-11am Adoration  
6.30pm Holy Mass

*Leon Family*

*Florette Lewis RIP*

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**FERIA**

11.00am Funeral Mass *Madeleine Moon*  
6.30pm Holy Mass  
7.00pm Stations of the Cross

*(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

*John Letley wellbeing*

**SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**FERIA**

9.30am Holy Mass

*In thanksgiving for the gift of life with  
prayers, continued blessing, good health and guidance in the  
years ahead*

10.00am-12noon Adoration

6.00pm Vigil Mass

*Toy'n Mojekny Birthday*

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

8.30am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung mass

*For the Soul of Tadeusz Poreba in 9<sup>th</sup> death  
anniversary  
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

## A Word of Appreciation – Mothering Sunday

As we mark Mothering Sunday, we take a moment to thank and appreciate the mothers and women of our parish for the care, faith, and dedication you bring to family life and to the life of the Church.

In the Gospel we see that Jesus welcomed women as true disciples. Many followed Him, listened to His teaching, and supported His mission. They remained faithful even in the most difficult moments, standing near the Cross and coming to the tomb to honour Him. From the earliest days of the Church, women have played an important role in the Christian community. The Blessed Virgin Mary prayed with the disciples, and Saint Paul speaks with gratitude of the many women who supported the mission of the Church.

Throughout history we also see that many saints and martyrs were shaped by the faith of a devoted and God-fearing mother. A well-known example is Saint Monica, whose patient prayer helped lead her son, Saint Augustine, to conversion. Behind many saints and martyrs of the Church we often find the quiet faith, sacrifice, and prayer of a mother who nurtured their faith and entrusted them to God.

We see the same quiet witness in our own parish today. Many mothers care for their families while also supporting the Church through prayer, catechism, and generous service. Some attend daily Mass and remain for the Rosary or other devotions, offering prayers not only for their families but also for the parish, for priests, and for many souls. In this they follow the example of Our Lady, who was not only the Mother of Jesus but also a loving mother to the early community of believers.

At the same time, we recognise that many mothers and families carry hidden burdens. Any form of abuse, injustice, or discrimination must never be taken lightly and should never be tolerated. Those who suffer must be listened to, supported, and protected. This concern is not only for women but for every person, since the dignity of every human being must always be respected. As Christians, we are invited to bring every difficulty before the Lord, seeking both justice and mercy, and asking God to heal what is wounded and guide us towards truth, reconciliation, and peace.

Sacred Scripture reminds us of God's tender care for His people. Jesus wept over Jerusalem and said that He longed to gather its children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Mothering Sunday therefore reminds us not only to honour mothers, but also to recognise God's loving care for all His children.

As we reach the midpoint of Lent, this is a favourable time to turn again to the Lord. If there are burdens or wounds in our lives, we are invited to bring them before Him and seek His mercy and healing.

As a small sign of appreciation, I will be offering daffodils to mothers in the parish today. These simple spring flowers remind us of hope and new life, pointing us towards the joy of Easter as we continue our Lenten journey.

May the Lord bless them abundantly, and may Our Lady, the loving Mother of the Church, watch over and protect them.

— Fr Mebrate

## Solemnity of Saint Joseph

On **Thursday, 19th March**, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**.

Mass will be celebrated at: **9.30am** (Morning Mass) and **6.30pm** (Evening Mass).

## Funeral Notice – Madeleine Moon

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Madeleine Moon**, who died recently at the age of **84**. Madeleine served for many years as a **housekeeper at English Martyrs Parish**, caring for **Fr Dominic Docherty** and **Fr Macarthy**. Her funeral will take place at **English Martyrs Church on Friday, 20th March at 11.00am**, followed by burial at **Strood Cemetery at 12.30pm**. As **burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy**, parishioners who are able are warmly invited to attend and pray for Madeleine, **as only a small number of mourners are expected**. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Please note **there will not be a 9.30am Mass, nor Adoration on that day**.

## Tea and coffee

This Sunday we will have **Tea and Coffee** after the **10:30am Mass in the Parish Hall**, please do join us and get to know your brother and sister parishioners.

## 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

Next choir practice is **Weds 18 March 6-7pm** and is a great opportunity for all to come and hear and practice the new Mass setting we have been learning in time for Easter.

## 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))

## Easter Vigil

Would you like to be involved in the Liturgy on Holy Thursday or the Easter Vigil? We are looking for people to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday, especially 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion candidates, Confirmandi, RCIA candidates, members of Parish Lay Apostolate, medical and nursing professionals, and parishioners. **We are also looking for nine Readers for the Easter Vigil**. If you would like to help, please contact **Monica O'Brien** or **Deacon John**.

## Gift aid

For those, who donate their money by **gift-aid envelopes**, please find the **new envelopes in the Sacristy**.

Thank you for your generous donations!

If you **would like to start donating using gift aid**, please contact Anna in the Parish office or email her on:

**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, Elliott King.

**Of your charity – please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Dante Coppola, Jean Gallagher, Elizabeth Rijhuran, Antoinette Mangani, Benedicta Milton, Carlos Ferreira, Paul Griffin, Albert Stanley, Ursula Govia, Eliza Griffin, Joseph Gallagher, Mary Bourke, Hannah Lawlor, Stephen Griffin, Karl Varnham, Maureen Nutley, Stephen McCutcheon, Reginald Simmonds, Silvana Bollen, Moya Day, Noreen Rodgers, Arthur Carwardine.