

PRESBYTERY
37 Frindsbury Road,
Strood, ME2 4JA
01634717582
07379051749

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

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Mebrate Desalegn
mebratedesalegn@rcaos.org.uk

SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAIN

Fr Shinoj Francis
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

SAFEGUARDING

Kate Taylor
Stroodsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Anthea Kwaw
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Barbara Asaam
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PARISH WEBSITE

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
Charity Number 1173050*

**ENGLISH MARTYRS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Headmistress Ms Catherine Thacker
Frindsbury Road, Strood
ME2 4JA
01634 718964

A member of Kent Catholic Schools Partnership

LAST WEEK

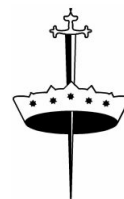
ATTENDANCE
344

WEEKLY COLLECTION
GIFT AID £306.00
NON-GIFT AID £424.61

TOTAL £730.61



**ENGLISH MARTYRS'
STROOD**
JULY
The Precious Blood



✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 26TH JULY 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 373

SUNDAY 26TH

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass
1.00pm Baptism *Daisy Ella Berry*

Bernadette Forster intentions
Agnes Laurence RIP

MONDAY 27TH

FERIA

No public mass today

TUESDAY 28TH

FERIA

9.00am-9.30am Adoration & Holy Rosary
9.30am Holy Mass

Sister's Augustine intentions

WEDNESDAY 29TH

SAINTS MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS

11.00am Funeral Mass *Frances Susanne Carr* (coffin will remain in the church overnight from Tuesday)

THURSDAY 30TH

FERIA

9.00am-9.30am Adoration & Holy Rosary
9.30am Holy Mass

Slevin Family intentions and wellbeing

FRIDAY 31ST

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

9.00am-9.30am Adoration & Holy Rosary
9.30am Holy Mass

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

Teresa Taylor thanksgiving

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

SAINT ALPHONSUS

9.30 am Holy Mass
10.00am-10.45am Adoration and Holy Rosary
11.00am Baptisms
6.00pm Vigil Mass

Holy Souls

People of the Parish

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

Padre Bill Keogh

Debbie Fernandes RIP

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 9.00am-9.30am
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

WISDOM AND HOLINESS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Although the Sunday celebration takes priority this weekend, 26 July is traditionally the Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of Jesus. We remember them with gratitude, together with all grandparents and elderly people whose prayers, wisdom and care enrich our families and parish community.

Last Thursday, we celebrated Saint Bridget of Sweden, a wife and mother of eight children. Her daughter, Saint Catherine of Sweden, also became a canonised saint. Together with Saints Joachim and Anne, they remind us that faith and holiness can be passed on from one generation to the next through family life.

Parents and grandparents naturally want to provide material security for their children, but the greatest inheritance they can offer is a living faith and a wise heart that knows how to choose what is truly good. This is not always easy. Many carry concerns for children or grandchildren who have drifted from the Church or are facing difficult situations. When our own efforts seem insufficient, we can entrust them to God and ask these family saints to intercede for them.

Faith is passed on not only by teaching prayers, but by allowing children to see faith being lived each day. When they see their parents and grandparents praying, forgiving, attending Mass and caring for others, they learn what it means to follow Christ. This is the wisdom from above: knowing what has lasting value and choosing God above everything else.

Saint Bridget was not only a mother and mystic but also a courageous peacemaker who offered wise guidance to the Church and the leaders of Europe. Her life reminds us of the important vocation of laypeople in building up the Church through prayer, wisdom and service. This continues today: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Dr Maria Montserrat Alvarado, a laywoman, to become Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication in November.

In this Sunday's First Reading, Solomon asks God not for wealth, long life or victory, but for a wise and understanding heart. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of someone who gives everything for a treasure and a pearl of great value. Both readings teach us to recognise what matters most: the wisdom that comes from above and leads us to God.

In the coming days, several children will be baptised in our parish. We have been helping their parents to renew their understanding of the Sacrament and the responsibilities they undertake. Baptism calls the children to holiness, but it also reminds parents and godparents of their own call to holiness and their responsibility to bring up these children in faith through their words, choices and example.

May God give all our families the wise and understanding heart of Solomon, so that faith and holiness may continue from generation to generation.

Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for our families.

Saint Bridget of Sweden and her daughter, Saint Catherine of Sweden, pray for us. Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM SR AUGUSTINE, 24.07.'26: A massive THANK YOU to each and every one of you for, first of all, your presence in the church for the 11.00 am Mass last Sunday, for your so generous financial gift and for the MASSES you've had celebrated. THANK you for all the cards and goodwill messages AND for all the work, your precious time and the effort put into preparing the Parish centre for the FEAST of a BUFFET you provided. I simply cannot thank each and every one of you enough for a NEVER-to-be-FORGOTTEN SUNDAY. May God bless and reward you all. Thanksgiving MASSES will be celebrated for you and your intentions.

Affectionately, Sr Augustine

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, 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: James Mackin, Richard Wadey, Jack Laffan, Gary Hill, Dorothy Faulkenstein, Reginald Bowden, Victor Ferrugia, Anne Ashby, Harold McGrath, Nora Brady, Allan, Latto, Maureen Noye, Harry Bailey, Freda Destiney, Mary McMahon, Persis Hine, Patrick Morris, Maureen Drake, Christine Hamill, Ellena Smith, Honora Mahoney, Robin Grogan, Mike Knowlden.

UNITED IN PRAYER FOR OUR DEPARTED: Through Baptism, we are more than friends or fellow parishioners—we are one family in Christ. Whenever possible, please consider attending the Funeral Mass of a fellow Catholic, supporting the grieving family and praying together for the departed. **Please remember especially:**

- **Frances Susanne Carr** – Funeral Mass on Wednesday, 29 July, at 11am
- **Rebecca Maufe** – Funeral Mass on Wednesday, 5 August, at 11am
- **Noreen Chambers** – Funeral Mass on Wednesday, 12 August, at 1pm

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

THE PARDON OF ASSISI – 1–2 AUGUST:

To mark the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis, the faithful may receive a plenary indulgence from noon on Saturday, 1 August, until midnight on Sunday, 2 August. Visit the church, pray the Our Father and Creed, and pray for the Holy Father's intentions. Confession, Holy Communion and freedom from attachment to sin are also required. Confession will be available on request while the priests are present.

NEW SACRISTY LEADERSHIP: Following Sr Augustine's retirement, we are very grateful to **Clare Di Fede** for generously taking on responsibility for the sacristy—preparing the altar, hosts, wine, and liturgical items for Mass, alongside continuing her flower arranging. **Catherine Capone** will assist her in this role. **A huge thank you to Clare** for stepping up to serve our parish so generously!

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE:

Saturday 1st August 2026 | Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham
All are welcome to join the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life. The day begins with the Angelus and Pilgrim Mass at 12:00 pm, followed by prayer and devotions. If you cannot attend in person, please support us in prayer.

Details & Coach Bookings: prolifepilgrimage.org

VISIT OF FR DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC (from

Paschal): Fr Donald Calloway is visiting several parishes this August: Sun 16th: Stevenage / Mon 17th: Soho, London / Tue 18th: Dover / Wed 19th: Greenford
If you would like to travel to St Paul's in Dover on Tuesday 18th August, **please contact Carmen or Paschal**. A minibus will be arranged if there is enough interest.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER: ONLINE MARRIAGE COURSE:

An online course for engaged and married couples to deepen their faith and relationship, created with the Southwark Marriage Team and Sycamore.

- **Dates:** Tuesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th September / **Time:** 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm (via Zoom)

Info & Bookings: Contact Carole at mflkent@rcaos.org.uk