

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

371

WEEKLY COLLECTION

GIFT AID £213.00

NON-GIFT AID £458.02

TOTAL £671.02

MONTHLY DD IN JUNE

GIFT AID £682.50

NON-GIFT AID £410.00

TOTAL £1092.50

SECOND COLLECTION ST PETER'S PENCE

£183.21



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



✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE WEEK 5TH JULY 2026
Missal: Prayers and readings PG. 361

SUNDAY 5TH

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

*Raymond James Lineker RIP
People of the Parish*

MONDAY 6TH

FERIA

No public mass today

TUESDAY 7TH

FERIA

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

Welfare of Peg Thorn

WEDNESDAY 8TH

FERIA

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

*For the Sponsors and for
the Holy Communion children*

THURSDAY 9TH

SAINT AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG

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

Holy Souls

FRIDAY 10TH

FERIA

10.00am *Funeral Mass John Cooney*

(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)

SATURDAY 11TH

SAINT BENEDICT

8.30 am Holy Mass

*Davica's Farrell Evans Birthday intentions and
Thanksgiving*

10.00am Syro-Malabar retreat
6.00pm Vigil Mass

Magda and Przemek 23rd Wedding Anniversary

SUNDAY 12TH

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY

8.30am Said Mass
11.00am Sung Mass

Margaret and Tom Sparkes RIP

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 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

Come to Me: Finding Rest in Christ and Building Family Unity

Every one of us carries burdens. They are different from family to family and from person to person. Some carry the burden of illness or grief. Others struggle with family tensions, loneliness, financial worries, anxiety, disappointment, or simply the pressures of daily life. Around the world, many carry even greater burdens, wondering where their next meal will come from. No one escapes suffering. But today Jesus does not say, "Carry them alone." He says, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Jesus does not always take away our burdens, but when we take His yoke upon us, He walks beside us. He gives us His presence, His peace and the strength to keep going.

Last Thursday, at the Funeral Mass of Ann Instance, I saw this Gospel lived out. During the months of her illness, I had the privilege of visiting Ann and celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with her. Both Ann and Bryan were also strengthened by the Holy Eucharist, which Deacon John faithfully brought to their home. Their burden did not disappear, but they did not carry it alone. Christ was with them.

What touched me most on the day of the funeral was something very visible. Bryan, their children Claire and Mark, the grandchildren, relatives and friends were together—in the church and later at the crematorium. Of course, they were not a perfect family. Like every family, they had their own joys, struggles and burdens. Yet what stood out was their love, their respect for one another and their unity.

That is a lesson for all of us. Bryan and Ann spent their married life building a family united in love. Last Thursday, even in the sadness of Ann's funeral, that unity was visible. Their children, grandchildren and relatives stood together in faith and love. What a beautiful legacy. It makes us ask ourselves: What legacy am I leaving? Am I helping all my children and grandchildren to know they are equally loved? Am I bringing them together? Am I creating opportunities for them to know one another, to spend time together and to remain united? Just as we encourage harmony within our parish family, we should also work to build harmony within our own families.

That is exactly what today's Gospel is about. Jesus invites us to come to Him with our burdens, not only so that we may find peace, refreshment and rest, but so that, through us, others may also experience God's peace. When Christ carries our burdens, He makes us more patient, more forgiving, more understanding and more loving. He helps us become a source of peace in our homes and a source of unity in our families.

As we continue this Holy Mass, let us bring all our burdens to Jesus. May He refresh our hearts, strengthen our families, and help us leave behind the greatest inheritance we can give—not wealth or possessions, but faith, love, peace and family unity. Amen.

COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND Sea Sunday – 12 July 2026. This Sea Sunday, we pray for seafarers facing crisis and conflict worldwide. Stella Maris provides vital pastoral and practical support to those at sea.



THANKSGIVING FOR SISTER AUGUSTINE – SUNDAY 12 JULY: Bishop Paul Hendricks will celebrate a **Thanksgiving Mass at 11.00 am.** Parishioners are encouraged to attend this Mass if possible. Following Mass, everyone is warmly invited to the Parish Hall for refreshments and the parish celebration.

Please note that part of the school playground will be unavailable for parking as it will be used for the celebration. If possible, please park elsewhere and allow extra time to walk to the church. If you are not staying after Mass, please avoid parking in the playground, as exiting may be difficult.

Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring wine or beer if you wish. Please do not use glass containers outside; plastic cups will be available, though you are welcome to bring your own.

Gift envelopes for Sister Augustine are still available in the church porches. If you wish to contribute, please return them **by Friday 10 July.**

We look forward to celebrating and thanking Sister Augustine for her many years of dedicated service to our parish.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEPARTED: Please remember in your prayers all those from our English Martyrs Parish who have recently died, especially:
*John Cooney – Friday 10 July, F. Mass at 10.00 am
*Mrs Pamela Bruen – Wednesday 15 July, F. Mass at 10.00 am
*Rebecca Maufe – Wednesday 5 August, Funeral Mass at 11.00 am
*Noreen Chambers – Wednesday 12 August, Funeral Mass at 1.00 pm

MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP: This Monday, 6th July, Mothers Prayer group will meet at 7 pm in the church. Church cleaning at 6pm. Any help is highly appreciated.

ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE MASS (SATURDAY 11 JULY): Married couples are warmly invited to the annual Marriage Mass with Archbishop John Wilson at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, at 3.00 pm. A special welcome is extended to those celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. All married couples are welcome. Please contact the parish office in Southwark for details.

YOUTH DAY AT ST JOHN FISHER SCHOOL, CHATHAM (SATURDAY 11 JULY)
11.00 am – 5.30 pm. A day of prayer, activities, sport, and lunch for young people aged 10–14 years, organised by the Southwark Catholic Youth Service. Cost: £5 per person. We warmly commend this event to the young people of our parish. To book a place, please visit: <https://rcaos.org.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/event-booking/>

SISTERS AUGUSTINE'S CELEBRATION 12TH JULY
Mass will be at 11.00.
Part of the playground will be unavailable for parking as we will be using this for outdoor tables etc.. Please allow time to park elsewhere, walk to the church and avoid the playground if you are not planning to stay for the celebration after Mass as exit could be difficult.
Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available, you are welcome to bring some wine or beer if you wish. Please no glasses outside, we will have some plastic cups/glasses available but please bring your own if you have them.
Gift envelopes are still available in the church porches, please make sure they are returned by Friday 9 July.
We are looking forward to a lovely parish celebration!

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION - WALSINGHAM 1 August 2026. All are welcome to join the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on Saturday 1 August 2026. The day begins with the 12pm Angelus and Pilgrim Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany of Life, Benediction, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and a silent Act of Reparation, concluding with the Salve Regina. Those unable to attend are asked to join in prayer. For information and coach bookings, visit prolifepilgrimage.org.

FOOD BANK APPEAL: Our Food Bank supplies are running low, and we would be grateful for any donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. Your generosity helps support local individuals and families in need. Every contribution makes a difference. Thank you for your kindness and support.

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: Nora Cruttenden, Catherine Birch, Helena Stawowski, Bridget Geraghty, Marcella Gillen, Joan Bursey, Edna Wright, Elizabeth Morris, Agnes Lyons, Joseph Maloney, John Roche, Mgr Don Chatham, Doris Carpenter, Herbert Black, Bozena Connally, George Digweed, Dermot Travers, Peg Richards.