

**ENGLISH MARTYRS' R.C. CHURCH**

37 Frindsbury Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 4JA.

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 ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL - 01634 718964.  
 Headmistress Ms Catherine Thacker

**Bank details:** Nat West Bank Sort code: 60-21-02  
 Account number: 55082904 Account Name: RCAS Strood

**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** (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)

**Saturday:** Knights of St Columba, first Saturday of the month at 7 pm

**Sunday** – Tea and Coffee first Sunday at 11.30 am in the Parish Hall

**Mass Times and Intentions:****Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May Feria**

9.30 am (Latin mass) Our Lady of the Pillar for Fr M H

6.00 pm Patricia Ayngge wellbeing

**Sun 12<sup>th</sup> May Seventh Sunday of Easter**

8.30 am Sarah Bruce and Sophie Brown intentions

10.30 am People of the Parish

**Tue 14<sup>th</sup> May Saint Matthias**

9.30 am Sue Hibbert's intentions

**Wedn 15<sup>th</sup> May Saint John Stone**

9.30 am Sister Augustine wellbeing

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May Saint Simon Stock**

9.30 am Pat and Stan Skillet RIP

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May Feria**

9.30 am Francesca Lucia Giorda

11.00 am Funeral service Barbara Ongley

7.00 pm All First Holy Communion children

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May Saint John**

9.30 am (Latin mass) Jack and Patrick Berry RIP

6.00 pm Arthur and Kathleen Pearl RIP

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost Sunday**

8.30 am Mary Kelly RIP

10.30 am People of the Parish

**Pentecost Celebration**

This year we will have an **International Pentecost Celebration after the 10:30 mass next weekend** - to celebrate the Holy Spirit spreading the church to the corners of the world – we will also have a joyful celebration in the hall after the Mass.

**To help organise** this would people be happy **to bring food and drink representing their culture and nation**. Could you sign up with what you may bring on the sheets in the porches. Thank you in advance.

**Masses this week**

Please note there will **not be Holy Mass on Monday morning, but there will be Holy Mass on Tuesday morning.**

**May Devotions**

**Every Sunday during May** we will be praying the **rosary and the litany and other hymns and devotions to Our Lady at 3 pm in the Church.**

**Church Car Park**

This week again the car park will be unavailable, however we hope to reopen next weekend. Please be aware, when you come to **Mass for the next few weekends the car park will not be available**. There is however much street parking available in the side roads around the church. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this disturbance.

**Please remember the following in your prayers:**

Barbara Borthwick, Judith Streten, 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, Shane McNeelan, Eileen Gallagher, Helen and Arthur Annal, Claire Baron, Rod Black.

**Anniversaries:** Michelina Wilson, Philip McGee, Beatrice Petto, Liam Cremin, Thomas Poynton, Michael Lewis, Charles Pritchard, Freda Voight, Patrick Bond, Hilda Instance, Joyce Kemsley, William McDaid, William Gordon, Christine Wilson, Mary Kelly, Bridget Halls, Richard Smith, Ian Griffin, Emma Booth, John Davies, Violet Clarke, Teresa Mantegna, Helena Butler, Ron Rayner, Kathleen Lacey.

	Total	Gift Aid	Non- Gift Aid
<b>Weekly Collection</b>	<b>£801.54</b>	<b>£298.20</b>	<b>£503.34</b>
<b>Second collection</b>	<b>£20.00</b>	<b>£20.00</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Sum -up for April</b>	<b>£134</b>	<b>£38</b>	<b>£96</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>316</b>		

**Spiritual Thought**

This is a strange time in the church year. We've celebrated the Ascension of the Lord – he has returned to heaven – but now, having received the new life and new relations with God we are left without, without Jesus, without the Holy Spirit, without organisation.

The disciples are left in a type of limbo, with nothing but their faith in Jesus' promises "I will send you another advocate". So they return to Jerusalem and pray, with the whole church, and particular mention is made of being united in prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus.

Can we imagine this prayer – a prayer of peace, knowing God will hear – a prayer of faith, believing in the promises – a prayer of expectation, not know who or what the other advocate will be.

Let us join this prayer with the Apostles and particularly with Our Lady, so the Holy Spirit will be breathed again into the church and she be renewed.

Sadly we have to announce the **death of one of another of our long-standing parishioners. Gerry Hogan** died peacefully in his sleep earlier **this week**. Please remember to pray for the repose of his soul. His funeral details will be forthcoming.

**Funeral Services**

Mrs Barbara Ongley died on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Her funeral service will be held at English Martyrs at 11am on 17<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Mr Patrick Ange died on the 18<sup>th</sup> April at home.** His funeral Mass will be offered at English Martyrs on the **24<sup>th</sup> May at 10am, his body will be brought into the church at 4pm the night before.**

Please remember to pray for the repose of these faithful souls, and for the comfort of their families.

**Pilgrim Madonna**

Parish families are invited to welcome the **Pilgrim Madonna into their homes for a period of one month, for prayers and devotion centred on daily Rosary.**

If interested please contact Chioma .S. McMorrow on 07411112463/ [sylver\\_chioma@yahoo.com](mailto:sylver_chioma@yahoo.com) or write down your name on the list at the two church's entrance . "The family that prays together stays together"

**Act now to stop DIY abortion up to birth**

MPs Diana Johnson and Stella Creasy have both tabled amendments to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill that would decriminalise abortion. They would essentially **legalise DIY abortion up to birth**, for any reason.

Please contact your MP urgently, asking them to oppose these proposals. You can do this using SPUC's webtool, at <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments>. The Bill will be debated on 15 May, so please contact your MP NOW.