

ENGLISH MARTYRS' R.C. CHURCH

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

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PARISH PRIEST Fr Tom Lynch 01634 717582
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 DEACON Rev John Letley 01634 715151
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 SAFEGUARDING stroodsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
 PARISH ADMIN Anna West - 01634 717582
 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 11th Jan Feria of Christmas Time**

9.30 am (Latin Mass) For the deceased of the Parish

6.00 pm John Higgins RIP

Sun 12th Jan The Baptism of The Lord

8.30 am People of the Parish

10.30 James Decker RIP

Monday 13th Jan Saint Hilary

9.30 am Mr and Mrs DiFede Snr RIP

Wed 15th Jan Feria

9.30 am Sue and Steve Wilde

Thur 16th Jan Feria

9.30 am For the intentions of Carr Family

Fri 17th Jan Saint Anthony Abbot

09.30 am Ian G. Rogers RIP

Sat 18th Jan The Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30 am (Latin Mass) Esteban Rojas and
 Orlando Quintero Cala RIP

6.00 pm Justyna Filipek Birthday intentions

Sun 19th Jan Second Sunday

8.30 am Bernadette Foster

10.30 am People of the Parish

Thank You

A huge thank you to all who organised it for making our Christmas Party such a great success. **Thank you to everyone** who prepared the hall, or made food, or help clear away. It was such a lovely event bringing so many from our parish together.

Fr Tom, Deacon John and Sister Augustine would like to thank all the parishioners for their and generous card, gifts and Christmas well-wishing. Fr Tom would particularly like to thank you for the very generous Christmas collection - may God bless you and reward you all this year.

Lourdes diocesan Pilgrimage 2025.

Lourdes diocesan Pilgrimage which will take place in **August 22-28th, 2025**. The meeting will take place at **St Henry & St Elisabeth Church, 53 Broadway, Sheppey, ME121TS, at 2pm on Saturday, January 25th 2025**, at the kind invitation of **Fr Aklilu PP**. This jubilee year is the perfect opportunity for us to travel together "on pilgrimage" with Our Lady of Lourdes. Bishop Paul Hendricks and Dcn John Fogarty will have lots of information about the pilgrimage. Please contact **Dcn John Fogarty, 07851019134 or johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk**

Please remember the following in your prayers:

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, Shane McNeelan, Eileen Gallagher, Helen and Arthur Annal, Claire Baron, Rod Black, Michael New.

Anniversaries: Rev. Mother Bernard Mary, John Dinnen, Elizabeth Knight, James Wade, Roland Horsefall, George White, Maureen Monday, Anthony Nicholas, Olive Herberts, Trudy Moore, Patricia Tunnah, Teresa Hughes, Liam O'Kane, Kathleen Arkins, John Daly, Peter Lamb, Mary Maloney, Epegenia Fe Carpio, Jan Lelental, Margaret Harman, Michael Reynolds, Henry Baron, Ian Rogers, Ursula Lamb, Phyllis Brown, Maureen Hogan.

	Total	Gift Aid	Non- Gift Aid
Weekly Collection	£1182.73	£317.00	£865.73
Direct debit December	£1940.50	£603.50	£1337.00
Contactless December	£151.05	£0.00	£151.05
Attendance	313		

Spiritual Thought

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord which brings to an end the Christmas and Epiphany season. We have seen and heard about the great revelation of the descent of the Word of God into our world – how he was seen and adored by the shepherds and the Wise Men – finally, we hear how he is seen and acclaimed by God the Father, just as he begins his great work "you are my Son, the beloved". This should surely encourage and strengthen our faith in Jesus. We have seen other humans, other people worshipping Jesus and acclaiming him as God – just as we see in the church day by day other people worshipping and believing. But then to hear, from the mouth of God the Father himself, the same acclamation, the same truth. We know that accepting and believing in Jesus not only unites us to the saints on earth but also to God in heaven. This must give us confidence to know and believe Jesus, and to follow him more closely in our own lives.

Blessing of Animals

The blessing of animals will happen this year at **12noon Saturday 18th January**. Feel free to bring all your pets to receive the blessing of God. Larger animals can be blessed by appointment.

Announcement

We are sad to announce the death of **Judith Stretton**, who died on Monday night in the Medway Hospital. She had faithfully attended St. Justus, and then Holy Family, Hoo, before becoming housebound. Do remember to pray for the repose of her soul, and for her family at this time.

Just before Christmas **Rita McManigan** also died in the Medway Hospital surrounded by her family. Many will remember Rita from Hoo, and being the crossing guard at our school.

Last week we also heard the sad news of the death of **Jadwiga Stawowska**, the mother of Ella Marcar. Do remember to pray for the repose of their souls, and for their families at this time.

The Parish New Year's Lunch

The Parish New Year's Lunch will be held on **Sunday 19th January, 1pm - 4pm in the Parish Hall**. There will be a 4-course meal with a glass of wine or two (soft drinks available). For music we have a live Band and finally to finish off the day with a **raffle with prizes to be won**. Everyone is invited to come along to eat, drink and enjoy the start of another New Year.