

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



St. Helen's Catholic Church
The Presbytery
87 High Street
Chipping Ongar
CM5 9DX

Parish Priest:
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St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) **SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 2022**

Isaiah 2.1–5 Psalm 121 Romans 13.11–14 Matthew 24.37–44

A key theme is the radical contingency and dependence of humankind; an important challenge to so much of the human worldview. As individuals and as societies in the first world we can easily adopt an attitude where education, science and technology will steadily deal with all constraints. Why is the eschatological dimension of faith that we meet in today's readings is so important?

Both Paul and Jesus suggest an incentive for action. The challenge facing disciples is to respond here and now as if the moment of the end time (cosmic and individual) had arrived: stay awake and live as people of the light.

Accompanying this challenge is the bright promise of Isaiah – we will hear a great deal from Isaiah during Advent, and it is primarily Isaiah as the prophet of promise and hope. Human finitude and dependence are only a part of the Christian reality; they are set within a context of the infinite love and mercy of God who will 'teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths'.

Advent reminds us of the truth of faith: the end of time is the beginning of eternity.

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME. WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES & PARISHIONERS Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Let us continue to pray for Bill Hamilton, Ruby Woodford, Ken Blackett and for those who are also sick at this time. Lord Jesus Christ, our Most Holy Redeemer, by the grace of your Holy Spirit, grant comfort and healing to your servants who suffer in mind, body or spirit. When they are afraid give them courage, when they are afflicted give them patience, when dejected lift them up with new hope, when alone, assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2022

Christmas Tabletop Sale - 10 - 1pm 26th November at St. Margaret's Hall
Good news! We have now allocated all the tables for this event and we have a great variety of goods on sale. Christmas cards, Advent calendars, stocking-fillers, crafts, cakes, artwork, books, beauty products and much more. For the children there is an activity table. We also welcome the return of Russell's Famous Pizzas for our Pop-Up Café and would appreciate any donations of cakes or traybakes. **Most important** - please put it in your diary, to come along, have a bit of a get-together and support your parish and local charities.

Christingle Making with the children of the parish will be on Sunday 4th December at 3pm at St. Helen's, Ongar followed by the Carols by Candlelight at 4pm. Please contact Lorraine on 07913109669 or Chloe on 07817227000 if you would like to attend. There will be a collection for Brentwood Catholic Children Society (BCCS).



Carols by Candlelight

We would like to invite you to our Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 4th December 4pm @ St. Helen's, Ongar. Tickets are £5 pay on the door and will include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Children free entry. We will be rehearsing at St. Margaret's after 10.30am masses on Sunday 20th and Sunday 27th November - everyone who would like to sing with the choir is welcome to join us.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER

5.30pm	Children of the Parish	St. Margaret's
10pm	Christmas Midnight Mass	St. Helen's

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER

8.45am	Feast of the Nativity	St. Helen's
10.30am	Feast of the Nativity	St. Margaret's

Christmas Eve Family Mass - Sat 24th December - 5.30pm St. Margaret's

This will be led by the children of the parish and I would like to invite all First Holy Communion Children, past and present to contribute by their presence and to assist with the READINGS, BIDDING PRAYERS, OFFERTORY & SINGING. There will be a REHEARSAL following the 10.30am mass at St. Margaret's on SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER so your support would be greatly appreciated.

St Helens & St. Margaret's Christmas Hamper Raffle

We are now accepting donations to our Christmas Hamper - if you have anything suitable (no electricals pls) that you can donate to the hamper then please either give to Anne Robertson, Bernie Wrobel, Patrick Maher or drop directly into the church or Presbytery. Thank you.

ENERGY COSTS are a concern for all of us at this time and this includes the parish. Our current energy contract rates have increased very substantially and a recent maintenance and energy efficiency review of St Helens and the Presbytery was carried out to agree what practically we can do. This has produced a targeted list of measures that we are in the process of implementing. However, one of the largest urgent maintenance and energy efficiency measures is to repair the current poorly fitting and energy inefficient seven windows at the front of the Presbytery. Some are in a poor state of repair and do not fit properly. The presbytery is grade two listed and to do nothing will likely lead to higher energy bills and ultimately a higher eventual maintenance cost. The work needed is to remove, repair and draught proof the windows. The Parish finance committee is acutely aware that we are currently rebuilding our Parish financial position, but have agreed we need to act now to prevent further issues and costs arising in the future. A parishioner has agreed to kindly donate funds for part of the cost, but if anyone does feel able to help with the sizeable cost please contact the Parish secretary in the first instance. Thank you.

New to our parish?

Please say 'hello' to Fr. Emile and fill in a Register/Census Form (in porch)

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Please arrange by prior appointment with Fr. Emile. Baptism application forms are available in the church porch or from Kelly at the parish office.

100 Club The 100 Club is a nice way to contribute to our parish. If you would like to join, there are forms available on the website, at both churches or contact the parish office. The next draw will be on Sunday 27th November at St. Helen's.

November Dead List It has been a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church to pray for our dead during the month of November. If you have a loved one who has died who you would like to be remembered during the Masses in November please take one of the paper crosses or just write the name of the person you wish to be remembered and place it in the basket which will be in front of the altar. If you wish you can also put a donation in an envelope in the basket.

Repository Shop Our repository shop now has a lovely selection of cards and gifts available for Christmas, Baptisms, First Holy Communions etc. Please pay by using box on wall at St. Helen's for cards and bookmarks or get in touch with Ann Jackson after mass at St. Helens or text her on 07753661636 for any other special purchases you may need. Thank you.

Volunteers needed: To keep our parish a vibrant, welcoming community we rely on parishioners offering their services. Please consider helping with any of the following:

Cleaning Rota - Volunteers Needed! We are currently setting up a new rota for St. Helen's Church Cleaning and are asking if anyone else would be able to join the group. If we have a number of people then we could each be allocated a week and then we can choose which day of that week best suits each of us to fit in with our busy lives. If you wish to volunteer your help then please contact the parish office. Your help is always much appreciated.

Bidding Prayers If anyone can volunteer a little time to join the rota to help with writing the bidding prayers each week then please do get in touch with parish office. Thank you for your help.

First Holy Communion Catechists

If there is anyone, preferably with some catechist experience, who could assist with this year's First Holy Communion Programme starting in January then please do get in touch with the parish office.

DO YOU HAVE A LARGE VAN OR ESTATE CAR? We have an old double mattress in the presbytery that needs to go to the rubbish tip. If any Parishioner is able to help, could you please let Fr Emile or Kelly know. Thank you for any help you can give.

Missio Update Many of us have red Missio boxes tucked away somewhere that we may be in the habit of emptying loose change into. First of all, a special thank you to our parish representatives for counting that money and sending it on to Missio in the past. No matter how small the amount, the money is a valuable source of income to Missio. Missio is the Pope's special charity for World Missions. For further details to collect your Missio red box or to start you off on a new box please contact Mary Cox on 01277 374145 or 07752467027.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023 The annual diocesan pilgrimage, led by Bp Alan, will take place from Monday 24 – Saturday 29 July. All are welcome, including those of us who need assistance. Details regarding booking and costs will follow soon.

Standing Orders, QR Codes and Contactless Giving

We are very grateful that many of our parishioners now donate to the Parish using standing orders to support us, particularly in this very difficult time. If you wish to set up a standing to our bank account please use Account Number 01017616, Sort Code: 40-13-22 and quote your gift aid number as a reference. For alternative ways to donate, QR codes have also been sent up to make it easier.

To make a donation please scan the QR code with a QR code scanner app for the appropriate amount using your mobile phone. The amount will be deducted from your bank account electronically and sent to the Parish bank account. If you wish to Giftaid-it please scan the codes in the Giftaid-it section after reading the declaration. Codes are also available at the back of the church.



Please treat as gift aid donation, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00

Donate without Giftaid-it

If you are unable to donate with Giftaid-It then please use the codes below.

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00

WEEKLY ROTAS

Date	Mass	Reader & BP	E M	Sick Rota
Sat 26 Nov 1st Advent (A)	5.30	Stan		
Sun 27 Nov 1st Advent (A)	8.45am 10.30am	Dolores Graham Bateson Jane Gay (BP)		(A) Dolores (D) Lorraine
Sat 3rd Dec 2nd Advent (A)	5.30pm	Elaine		
Sun 4th Dec 2nd Advent (A)	8.45am 10.30am	Anne Bernard Adams Dhilma Nawagamuwa (BP)		

Prayer List: Josie Biggs, Carmen Blackett, Ken Blackett, Carla Brennan, Matthew Dansey, Richard Denton, Kathleen Donovan, Chris Easter, Lucy Gay, Emma Harnett, Harry & Family, Ron Hawkins, Jane & Family, Joanie, Nawal Freij, Douglas Jason, Veronica Kass, Joanna Keen, Sharon Lewis, Vivian Levett, Anna Lumley, Dean Macaree, Ian Maxwell, William Mortimer, Billy Nurse, Paul Nyman, Leslie Pay, Elizabeth Sainsbury, Ann Rayment, Verone Rontganger, Kathy Scott, Margaret Simons, Sophie, Adrian Smith, Amelia Solomon, Mary Sage, Dave Speller, Jean Thurston, Pam Townsend, Michael Weaver, Frances Wiseman, Ellen Witt, Ruby Woodford, Harrison Wybow, John Harris, Mary Adams, Sonia Denton, Mike Barrett, Marvin Bourke and all those afflicted by Covid-19.

INFORMATION

Sick/Housebound: Sheena Mackintosh - 01277 821524

Hall Bookings: Kelly Love - Parish Office 01277 362645

PPC Chairman: Patrick Maher 01277 823750

New Parishioners: Please introduce yourself to Fr Emile after mass

Steward of the Gospel: Alan Chapman 01277 822793

Safeguarding Officers: Audrey McGill 823485 & Margaret Payne 362203

Gift Aid Organiser: Bernard Adams 01277 823511

St Helen's Repository Gift Shop: Ann Jackson (at mass or text 07753661636)

Parish Administrator: Kelly Love 01277 362645

or email ongar@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Weekly Offerings: Offerings may be made at Mass or posted through the door of the Priest's House marked with your Gift Aid number or you can use your Gift Aid Envelopes if you have them. Cheques should be payable to Catholic Church Ongar St Helens and will be dealt with by the Parish Office. Alternatively a bank transfer/standing order with your Gift Aid number as a reference can be made by using Account Number 01017616, Sort Code: 40-13-22. To apply for the Gift Aid Scheme please contact Bernard Adams on 01277 823511. Thank you.

Mass Attendance: 19/20 Nov Sat 5:30pm: **21** Sun 8:45am: **20** Sun 10:30am: **45**

Offertory Collection: £178.62

Thank you for your continued selfless generosity and support.

Mass Times and Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)		
Sat 26 Nov, 2022	(St. H) 5.30pm	Mary Rafferty Int.
Sun 27 Nov, 2022	(St. H) 8.45am	Detta Mustafa and Hatice Lort
	(St.M) 10.30am	People of our Parish
Mon 28 Nov, 2022	(Ilford) 9.30am	Feria Pat Cullimane RIP Michael Heneghan RIP Maureen Kivineen Eileen McNamara Corbett Family
Tue 29 Nov, 2022	(St. H) 9.00am	Feria Jennie & Jack Amstronng Alf Bearden & Bridie Bearden
Wed 30 Nov, 2022	No 9am Mass (St. H) 11.00 am	ST ANDREW, Ap, Patron of Scotland Feast DEANERY MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY (PURPLE)
Thu 1 Dec, 2022	(St. H) 11.00am	Rustuy & Stsan Huseein Sean, Philip, Maureen, Sr Christine, Gerald
Fri 2 Dec, 2022	(St. H) 9.00am	Feria John Amstronng ,Annie Clark, Keith Murray
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)		
Sat 3 Dec, 2022	(St. H) 5.30pm	People of our Parish
Sun 4 Dec, 2022	(St. H) 8.45am	John Valencia RIP (L. Gardner).
	(St. M) 10.30am	Paddy & Hannah Maher Eileen Donavon RIP Anniv. Bill Tomlyn RIP (Patrick Maher & Family)
	(St. H) 3.00pm	Christingle Making
	(St. H) 4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight