

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddingtonhurst



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

Parish Priest:

Fr Emile Nkumu

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St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddingtonhurst Road
Doddingtonhurst
CM15 0QJ

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Sunday 26th March, 2023

Ezekiel 37.12–14 Psalm 129 Romans 8.8–11 John 11.1–45

Lazarus' illness 'will not end in death, but in God's glory'. Jesus loves Lazarus, why he waits two days until Lazarus has died before setting off.

The reasons may be to enable the disciples to deepen their belief in him. People encounter Jesus in order to come to faith.

Martha and Mary already close friends of Jesus, come to faith in him, not just as a friend but as the Christ: Martha says 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died.' They both acknowledge that Jesus has power over the evil of illness, but Jesus wants his listeners to understand that he has power over death itself. Martha says: 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus reveals to the onlookers the depth of his love for his friend. Lazarus bound by the grave cloths, and death. A passage portraying a compassionate Jesus who expresses human love and yet divine power by forth faith from those he encounters, identifying himself as the Lord of life. This is an anticipation of the Paschal Mystery revealing Jesus as the conqueror of sin and death.

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

Lent and Easter Dates 2023

Saturday 25th March - 4.30pm to 5pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation (St. H)

Monday 27th March - 7.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (St. H)

Wednesday 29th March - 7.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (St. M)

Palm Sunday 2nd April – 8.45am (St. H) & 10.30am (St. M)

Maundy Thursday 6th April - 7.30pm (St. H)

Good Friday 7th April - 10am Walk of Witness starting at St. James Church,
Ongar - John Adams to carry the Cross.

3pm Good Friday (St. M)

Holy Saturday 8th April - 7.30pm Easter Vigil (St. H)

Easter Sunday 9th April 8.45am (St. H) & 10.30am (St. M)

The Lenten Lunches enjoyed a resounding success ,Congratulations .

Easter Hamper Raffle tickets will be sold from this weekend for our Easter Hamper Raffle in aid of the repairs to the Presbytery. We would also be grateful for any suitable donations to the hamper. Thanks very much for your support.

Fr. Emile would like to welcome any parishioners for Tea/Coffee and a chat on Thursdays in the Presbytery after the 11am mass each week.

First Holy Communions There will be Reconciliation Service for the First Holy Communion children at 3pm Saturday 25th March, 2023 at St. Helen's.

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. Your generous donation of £137.00, rooted in love, will support families around the world grow in strength to fight the climate crisis. You can still give online at cafod.org.uk/give

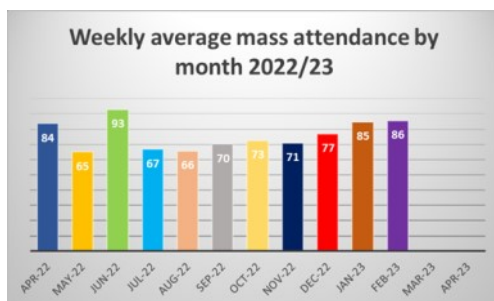
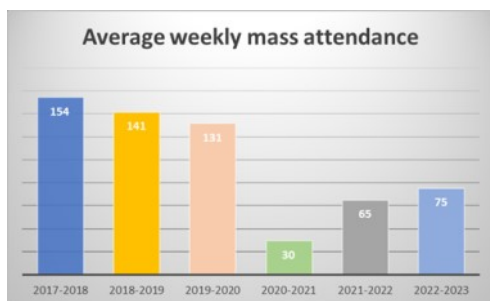
Red Boxes Thank you very much to all those who gave in their red boxes to Mary Cox to be counted. £220.8 was raised altogether for Missio, the Pope's charity for world missions. Please keep counting and collecting your loose change - every little helps!

INTERIM PARISH FINANCE UPDATE TO 5TH FEB 2023

Review of mass attendance trends

Key to our sustainability as a Parish is to grow our community in faith. Average weekly mass attendance post pandemic is only slowly recovering in the right direction and still 43% lower than in 2019/20 and 51% lower than the 2017/18 peak. A thriving welcoming community is important as historically the generous level of gift aid contributions to support the Parish helped us enter the Pandemic years in a stable financial position.

Income to 5th Feb 2023



Gift aid donations enabling us to recover 25% in tax refunds from the government and Doddinghurst hall hire are the two single largest parish income sources, although the 100 club and parish events have helped raising £2,012. Total income for the first ten months of the year was £54,459. Thanks to a fully funded legacy from Bill Tillott we will shortly also have a new Church sign installed in front of the Presbytery.

Expenditure to 5th Feb 2023

In terms of expenditure which totalled £67,482 for the first ten months of the year. Key expenditure includes:

Diocesan quota and sick & retired clergy fund - £11,034 to support the work of the Diocese and our clergy.

Energy costs – £8,805. We do not benefit from the government energy price cap and have seen energy costs more than double year on year. We have taken actions to partially reduce this cost via maintenance and energy saving initiatives including new more accurate thermostats and draught proofing.

Maintenance costs - £6,109. This includes nearly £5,000 of unplanned costs relating to the replacement fan in the Church boiler, a new presbytery boiler and other presbytery items. The Presbytery window repair and draught proofing work cost £3,600 which was fully funded by specific donations and paid at the end of February.

More generally the cost of living increases over the last year have had an impact and we have tried to control costs where we can. There is an ongoing maintenance need which we are actioning when fully funded.

100 Club Congratulations to Betty Helliard who was the lucky winner of £74 in our £100 Club draw for February. Renewal letters are being sent out for 2023-2024 to those already in the scheme. Please get in touch with Anne Robertson or Bernie Wrobel to get a form if you wish to join and help support the parish. The draw takes place alternately at St. Helens or St. Marg and is usually the last Sunday of the month. Good luck!

Repository Shop Our repository shop now has a lovely selection of very

Deficit as at 5th Feb 2023

At the start of the year the deficit stood at (£2,971) increasing to a deficit of (£15,994) as at 5th February 2023, meaning that expenditure exceeded income. However with the gift aid tax refund received at the end of February we currently expect to end the year with a total negative reserves deficit approaching (£10,000).

Thank you for continuing to generously support your parish. A full year end financial update will be published in June 2023.

Your Parish Finance Committee.

reasonably priced Christian cards and gifts available for Christmas, Baptisms, First Holy Communions etc. that not seen usually in shops and is a nice way to help the parish a little. Please pay by using box on wall at St. Helen's for cards, bookmarks or prayer cards etc 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.

New to our parish? Please say 'hello' to Fr. Emile and fill in a Register/ Census Form (in the church porch)

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people from the night of March 31st 2023 (9pm) to the morning of April 1st (8:30am), to join this year's Sponsored Sleepout in one of our four locations; Colchester, Forest Gate, Romford and Southend. The sleepout will help to raise awareness and money to help our local homeless charities and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. All information can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/ sleepout and to register please email sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org

GIDEA PARK TALK ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST: On Wednesday 22nd March at 7 pm in the church hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and Member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. The talk, entitled *Do this in memory of me*, will examine the New Testament material, and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis. This talk is in person, and can also be followed live stream by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

Campion School Open Evening for admission of boys who will be 11 years old during the current academic year will be held at the school on Thursday, 29th June 2023 from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. Talks by the Headteacher will be at 5.15 pm and 6.30 pm. The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) will be available online.

BCYS & Walsingham House Lenten Revision Retreat, 25th/26th March 2023 Fed up with the library or revising in your room? Get a change of scenery at Walsingham House at Abbotswick this Lent to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and some peace and quiet. Reflect during times of prayer. Enjoy socialising with friends and the team. Revise alongside friends and the Walsingham House team members. Use the chapel for times of quiet reflection All for just £35! Open to all in years 11 – 13, Visit www.bcys.net for more information and to apply.

Musical Celebration 60 Years of Campion - Wednesday 22nd March, 7.30pm performed by current and past students including Nessun Dorma sung by the renowned tenor, Rob Murray, currently performing at the Vienna Opera House. £10 per ticket, £5 per child. Contact 01708 452332 for tickets.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Saturday 27th May 2023: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. Please let the parish office know if you are interested. If there are several people that would like to go then we would need volunteer/parish representative to organise transport etc.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL AND CARE HOME. THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME. WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES & PARISHIONERS

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.

Prayer List: Ken Blackett, Josie Biggs, 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, Harrison Wybow, John Harris, Mary Adams, Sonia Denton, Mike Barrett, Marvin Bourke and also all those afflicted by Covid-19.

WEEKLY ROTAS

	Mass	Reader & BP	Eucharistic Minister
Sat 25th Mar	5.30pm	Elaine	
Sun 26th Mar	8.30am 10.30am	Anne Margaret Payne Pat Maher (BP)	A) Dolores (D) Lorraine

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 07929241350

Email ongar@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Mass Attendance: 18/19 March Sat 5:30pm: 15 Sun 8:45am: 30 Sun 10:30am: 32

Offertory Collection: TBC

Thank you for your continued selfless generosity and support.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Sat 25th Mar, 2023	(St. H) 3.00pm	First Holy Communion Reconciliation Service
	(St. H) 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	(St. H) 5.30pm	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Solemnity Mr & Mrs Martin Kelyana Suker
Sun 26th Mar, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	Tony Armstrong Int. (Nalan)
	(St. M)10.30am	People of our Parish
Mon 27th Mar, 2023	(Ilford) 9.30am	Athanase John Lewis 29.9
	(St. H) 7.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tue 28th Mar, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Ilford Weekday attendants
Wed 29th Mar,2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Father Henry Young (Westminster) RIP
	(St M) 7.30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Thu 30th Mar, 2023	(St. H) 11.00am	Joseph Baata RIP
Fri 31st Mar, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Nalan Int.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)

Sat 1st April 2023	(St. H) 5.30pm	People of our Parish
Sun 2nd April, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	Dympna Burke RIP (Lauren Gardner)
	(St. M)10.30am	People of Doddinghurst