

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



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

Parish Priest:
Fr Emile Nkumu
Phone: 01277 362645
ongar@dioceseofbrentwood.org

www.catholicparishongar.org



www.dioceseofbrentwood.net



St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) Sunday 21st May, 2023

Acts 1.12–14 Psalm 26 1 Peter 4.13–16 John 17.1–11

John mentions the 'continuous prayer' in the Gospel passage preparing the reader for the events of Pentecost. This is part of Jesus' so - called 'High Priestly prayer'. The second part of John's Gospel (13–21) is sometimes called 'the Book of Glory', because that theme runs through that section is a major theme in today's passage. When John speaks of glory, he is using the word in a very restricted sense because the glory Jesus talks of is the whole movement of Jesus through his Passion and death on the cross, through to his Resurrection and appearance to the disciples and his return to the Father. The cross reveals Christ's glory for John.

The first part of today's Gospel emphasises the way in which Jesus and the Father share in that glory, their total inter-relatedness. In the second part of the passage, Jesus expresses how he now shares that glory with his disciples; that is with the Church. It is an expression of how the Church shares in the very life of God, through the Paschal Mystery the community of believers incorporated into the life of God. That is true for the community described in our first reading from Acts, it is also true of the community gathered in worship today.

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

Alan Chapman - Jane Gay spoke with Kim Chapman, Alan's wife during this week. Alan has been in hospital for three weeks and now at St. Bart's awaiting heart surgery there. Please let us pray for Alan and his family.

The First Holy Communion Mass this year will take place at 11.00am Saturday 10th June, St. Helens Church. Please note the service is expected to be busy including the church car park. Overflow car parking options include the lorry park opposite the Two Brewers and the Library car park etc.

PPC The AGM of the PPC will take place on Tuesday 13th June at 6.30pm in the Presbytery. This is an open meeting for those who would like to attend. Nomination forms for PPC membership and a copy of the constitution are available in both churches. Please kindly hand in your nominations to Anne Robertson, Bernie Wrobel or Pat Maher or Kelly Love at the parish office in the Presbytery and also if you have any items you would like to raise on the agenda. Thank you.

The Funeral for Gladys Skinner will take place at St. Helen's, Ongar at 1.45pm on Wednesday 31st May, followed by a committal at Bentley Cemetery at 3.30pm. The funeral will be presided over by Fr. John McGrath, from Epping parish, and who was a close friend to Andrew Skinner and the family. Afterwards, there will be a celebration of Gladys life at The Woodman, 155 London Rd, Stanford Rivers, Ongar CM5 9QF, her favourite pub.

Ride London Essex The roads in & around Ongar will not be open until at least 5pm on Sunday 28th May. Fr. Emile will therefore say Mass at 4pm on Saturday 27th May at St. Margaret's before returning for the 5.30pm Mass at St Helens, Ongar (followed by the marriage vow renewal) which seems to be the best option available to suit as many parishioners as possible.

BCYS Youth Gather 21st – 22nd October, Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island Youth Gather is back for 2023 and the BCYS are absolutely thrilled to be joined by the fantastic Adenike, semi-finalist on the voice, who many of you will have seen perform and heard from at Flame back in March.

Taking place at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island, there is cabin accommodation and a brilliant range of outward bound activities, opportunities for climbing high ropes, archery, zip wires and much more to keep you challenged and entertained, plus performances, input and workshops from Adenike and the SVP! All meals are included, plus two Mersea activities, 2 BCYS workshops, accommodation and travel to and from Mersea Island – all of this for just £70! The event is open to those in school year 9 and above, including opportunities for young leaders (age 18 and above) in the Brentwood Diocese.

Apply now at www.bcys.net/events/yg23/

BCYS Youth Mass, 1st June at Brentwood Cathedral Beginning in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm, there will be pizza and refreshments available, with the Cathedral open for quiet prayer, music and reflection, particularly thinking of those in the middle of, or nearing the end of, exams who may need a quiet space to rest and revitalise. Join us for as long or short a time as you wish to enjoy the peace of the Cathedral before we celebrate Mass with Fr Michael at 7:30pm. Anyone who wishes is very welcome to bring instruments or sing with our Youth led music group, or if you would like to serve, read, or be involved in the Mass in any way you would be incredibly welcome!

Catechist Training and Resources Day, Saturday 4th November The BCYS will host our Annual Catechist Training and Resources Day once again this November at Sacred Heart of Mary School in Upminster! With a number of incredible workshops, input, networking and welcoming back the fantastic David Wells as keynote speaker, this is a day not to miss if you are a Confirmation Catechist, First Holy Communion Catechist, Children's Liturgy or Youth leader in the Diocese of Brentwood! Visit www.bcys.net/events/catechistday23/ for details on how to book your place now!

Ongar Churches Together - Julian Meetings We are a new local, ecumenical group. Julian worship involves being silent and simply resting in God's presence, allowing Him to relate to you as an individual. Our first meeting will be on June 8th 2023 at 2pm in St Peter's Shelley, and then on the second Thursday of each month at 2pm. For those wishing to attend, who have transport issues, please phone or text Monica on 0771 7877 575 and a lift will be arranged for you. St. Peter's beautiful location makes it ideal for quiet prayer and reflection.

3Food4u recently launched an urgent online appeal for donations with the link <http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20356308>. In addition to this, we are desperate for all types of long life food for the 1500 vulnerable families we support every week. We can accept large quantities (pallets) and we are able to collect. No gift is ever a wasted effort at 3food4u!

Second Collection: This weekend there will be a Second Collection for World Communications Day if you wish to support it. More information can be found here <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd23-papal-message/>

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Mass Attendance: 12/13 May Sat 5:30pm: 20 Sun 8:45am: 35 Sun 10:30am: 21

**Offertory Collection: £288.15**

**Thank you for your continued selfless generosity and support.**

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) World Communications Day		
Sat 20th May, 2023	(St. H) 5.30pm	St Bernardine of Siena, Priest, Religious, missionary Tom McManus RIP
Sun 21st May, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	Edward Fagan RIP (Robert Fagan)
	(St. M) 10.30am	Alan Chapman in hospital (Jane Gay)
Mon 22nd May, 2023	(Ilford) 9.30am	Eileen Riordan Birthday int. 22/05/2023 Margaret Howe RIP Bridie Meenaghan
Tue 23rd May 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Alan Chapman
Wed 24th May, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Frankie Harmon
Thu 25th May, 2023	(St. H) 11.00am	St Bede the Venerable, Pr, D Nalan Hassan
Fri 26th May, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	St Philip Neri, Pr Nick Williamson RIP recently deceased (Dolores Ledwidge)
PENTECOSTE SUNDAY (A) Solemnity (Day of Prayer for the Church)		
Sat 27th May, 2023	(St. H) 5.30pm	ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Bp National Feast People of our Parish
Sun 28th May, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	Bruno Vassallo
	(St. M) 10.30am	Bill & Maureen Hamilton

Prayer List: Please pray for all our parishioners who are sick and need the benefit of our love and prayers: Alan Chapman, Maureen Hamilton, Billy Nurse, Lucy Gay

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.