

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddingtonhurst



St. Helen's Catholic Church
The Presbytery
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St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddingtonhurst Road
Doddingtonhurst
CM15 0QJ

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Sunday 5th October, 2023

Malachi 1.14 – 2.2,8–10 Psalm 130 1 Thessalonians 2.7–9,13 Matthew 23.1–12

There is something very healthy about the readings today, because they offer a challenge to those who are deputed to act in the name of the Lord, and they invite the people of God to review the mandate entrusted to such people and offer criteria to do so.

The Church is constantly embarrassed by the investigations carried out by individuals and the media – but embarrassment is not unhealthy, and while the motive of the individuals or media may sometimes not be wholly detached – the failures and culpability uncovered should always be revealed.

The simple truth is that privilege always carries greater responsibility and those entrusted with it need to acknowledge that and be called to account. Transparency, accountability, and responsibility are now common ideas throughout contemporary culture – the Law and the Gospel have always demanded them.

Sadly, despite the words of Malachi and Jesus, we still need those of Pope Francis to remind us. That is why today's readings are 'healthy'; they insist that the community of faith does indeed demand accountability of those who minister. Those who hold formal or informal ministry in the community of faith will take these readings very much to heart.

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

November List We remember our dead and communion that we still enjoy with them during the forthcoming month of November. We also pray and offer Masses for the repose of their souls in the eternal life of God. During the month of November, the small individual crosses will be available and will be an opportunity for each parishioner to write the names of their deceased loved ones, relative or friend on a cross. The completed crosses can then be placed in the baskets provided on the offertory tables and will become part of the offertory at each mass. Crosses will be available at every mass during November.

Bill Hamilton RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of our dear friend Bill Hamilton RIP who sadly passed away on 25th September. There will be a Requiem Mass on Monday 6th November at 11am at St. Helen's, Ongar followed by a Cremation Service at Bentley Crematorium at 12.30pm.

PPC - The next meeting of the PPC is coming up on Wednesday 15th November . We would like anyone to attend who has any responsibility in the parish or who attends various meetings. There is an item on the Agenda about Effective Communication in the parish. We hope this discussion will help make communication more effective and coherent.

Families Your family and your children are very welcome at mass. We have a Children's Church activity sheet for each Sunday celebration. It is based on the Church's calendar. It is designed for toddlers to first communion age children but older and younger kids (and parents!) can still enjoy it. The idea is to help children find small ways that they can participate in Mass and also to give some ideas for after Church - how to carry on sharing the faith with your family when you get home.

Family Mass - Third Sunday of every month - 8.45am at St. Helen's. The next Family Mass will be held on 19th November.

Healing Service - there will be a special Healing Service for anyone in the parish who would like to attend at St. Helens, Ongar on Thursday 23rd November starting with the Rosary at 2.30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 3.00pm then Adoration and healing prayer. The Healing Service will be led by Fr. Eamonn Power, who used to perform this service at Abbotswick.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL OF YOU who have been faithfully making your weekly offering. Our income has understandably dropped, which means that the contribution you are making is all the more important, whether by envelope, standing order or transfer, or by just putting what you can afford into the plastic box in church. **FR EMILE**

Tabletop Donations Request - please could we request donations of chocolates, bottles and tins of biscuits for Patrick Maher's Tombola Stall. Thank you!

First Communion Programme Children who would like to prepare to receive Holy Communion need to register for the programme which will begin later in the year, Children need to be at least 7 years old (Year 3 in school or above). Please register with the Parish Office as soon as possible so that we can organise all the requirements. Any parent who is willing to assist as a catechist, please, speak to Fr Emile.

PARISH CHRISTMAS TABLETOP SALE

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2023

10AM – 1.00PM

ST. MARGARETS HALL, DODDINGHURST ROAD, DODDINGHURST

Free Entry

INCLUDING ADVENT CALENDARS, CARDS, CRAFTS,

TOMBOLA, CAKE STALL, AND LUCKY DIP

TEA AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.

An opportunity to do some decluttering or to raise funds for charity.

ONLY £10 A TABLE OR £8 IF YOU ARE A CHARITY

TO BOOK A TABLE OR FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

RC PARISH OFFICE 01277 362645 OR B. WROBEL 01277 821986

Parish Partnership Christmas Social 7-9.30pm Saturday 2nd December at St. Joseph the Worker Church Hall, Hutton (after 6pm mass) - Mince Pies and Mulled Wine evening. A wonderful opportunity for the parish partnership to meet up socially. £4 per adult which includes a glass of mulled wine or wine, nibbles and a mince pie. It would be great to know in advance if you're coming for catering purposes) please email sjw.huttonparishevents@btinternet.com

BCCS This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to re-launch their virtual **Tree of Angels** which will allow you to light up a symbolic angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit www.bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Damian ddillon@bccs.org.uk.

Memorial Mass at Walsingham House at Abbotswick: the Friends of Abbotswick Memorial Mass for those with loved ones remembered within the grounds at Abbotswick will be held at 3pm on Sunday 12th November. If you wish to attend please email Claire at clairebailey@brcdt.org or phone 01277 373959.

St. Margaret's Hall Hire St. Margaret's is available for hire for private functions and parties, childrens parties, fitness classes, local groups and events holding up to 100 people at reasonable rates. If you would like more information or to make a booking please contact Kelly Love on 01277 362645, ongar@brcdt.org or whatsapp/msg 07929241350.

Mass Attendance: 28/29 Oct Sat 5.30pm: 14 Sun 8.45am: 20 Sun 10.30am: 36

Offertory Collection: £549.11

Bank Account Name/Cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'

Please contact Kelly Love if you require bank account details.

For Gift Aid Envelopes please contact Bernard Adams 01277 823511

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sat 4th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 5.30pm	St. Charles Borromeo, Bp Charles John Moore RIP (Robert Fagan)
Sun 5th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	Mary Todd (Ann Jackson)
	(St. M)10.30am	Alan J. Potter RIP (Ann & Graham)
Mon 6th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 11.00am	Funeral Bill Hamilton RIP followed by 12.30pm Bentley Crematorium
Tue 7th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	John Loughlin RIP Anita & Natty De Souza (Anita)
Wed 8th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Margaret Gallagher RIP (Nalan Hassan)
Thu 9th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 11.00am	DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA Feast Sr. Catherine Ryan RIP
Fri 10th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	St Leo the Great, P, D Cooper Family Int. (Nalan Hassan)

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Remembrance Sunday

Sat 11th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 5.30pm	St Martin of Tours, Bp Mick McNally, RIP
Sun 12th Nov, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	Mary Rafferty's intentions (Josie Byrne)
	(St. M)10.30am	Bill Hamilton RIP (Mary & Bernard Adams)

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.

Prayer List: Please pray for all our parishioners who are sick and need the benefit of our love and prayers: Alan Chapman, Maureen Hamilton, Lucy Gay, Stephen Garfield and family, Sonia Denton, Susan Corbin and family, Sue Potter.