

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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www.catholicparishongar.org



www.dioceseofbrentwood.net



St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Sunday 10th December, 2023

Isaiah 40.1–5,9–11 Psalm 84 2 Peter 3.8–14 Mark 1.1–8

John appears to announce the presence of the one promised by the prophet Isaiah. His presence has a big impact: 'All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him', that is never said about Jesus! John is described in the terms of a typical Old Testament prophet: he acts as he speaks God's words and carries out symbolic acts, he preaches repentance and baptises people.

John's role in the Gospel is to call the people to conversion as he announces the coming of the Lord, but he also clearly establishes a continuity between God's actions in Israel and God's action in Jesus. He is a bridge that enables us to see the 'Good News about Jesus Christ' as the fulfilment of what God has done with his people, and how the Covenant will be renewed.

The Baptist has that significance in Advent precisely because liturgically, Advent is about recalling the past, rejoicing in the present and anticipating the future. The reading from Isaiah invites us to recognise that, and the epistles readings do the same. Our own story is part of the great story of salvation, the history of God's dealing with his people.

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

Parish Advent Reconciliation Services will take place on Tuesday 12th December 7.30pm at St Helen's and on Thursday 14th December 7.30pm at St. Margaret's - one at each church in the evening. Prepare spiritually for Christmas. Come and experience the mercy and healing of God.

Family Mass - - Please join us for a special Family Mass on the **Third Sunday of every month** at **8.45am St. Helen's Chipping Ongar**. The next mass will be Sunday 17th December. Parents please get in touch if you would like your children to take part in the Masses.

Altar Servers Any person who has received Holy Communion is eligible to become an altar server. Please, let Fr Emile know if you would like to join a programme to become an altar server.

Please remember to pick up your **Children's Liturgy Activity Sheets** available at Mass each weekend.

Doddy Drop In - Tuesday 12th December 2-4pm - Everyone welcome!

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. **The deadline for submitting applications will be January 1st, 2024.**

Confirmations - The Confirmation preparation is for young men and women who are presently in year 11. It allows them to reflect on their own relationship with God and to explore with other young people some of the questions they may have about their faith. If there are any young people who would like to make their Confirmation next year 2024 please speak to Fr. Emile. Application forms available from Parish Office ongar@brcdt.org **The deadline for submitting applications will be Jan 1st, 2024.**

Whatsapp Group: If anyone would like to join the parish Whatsapp Group then please contact Denise Terry-Roberts at d.terryroberts@btinternet.com or on 07545 240064 for her to add your mobile number.

Diocesan Directory 2024 is now available from the parish office for £2.95

BCYS YOUTH MASS – *First Thursday of the Month, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral* Beginning with pizza & refreshments with a workshop or speaker in the Parish Hall from 6pm, Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming info@bcys.net

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT – *Saturday 6th January 2024*

A full day retreat for those aged 18 – 27 (having left school), at our beautiful retreat house Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Explore your faith, be inspired to put your faith into action, learn, ask questions and pray, all with other young adults. There is a small cost of just £10 to cover the day, with lunch and refreshments provided. For more information and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events/youngadults/

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE – *Last week of July 2024*
(exact dates TBC) Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. Serve the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assist the elderly and infirm, with times of retreat, reconciliation, visit the baths, take part in the beautiful Processions, as well as an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website www.bcys.net/events/sl24

Universe Catholic Weekly Online and PRINT EDITION Newspaper

If you are interested in our Digital Subscription Offer or the PRINT EDITION, call on Michelle on 0743 661 7650 michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING SCRABBLE? Would you like to join a Scrabble Club just starting in Epping? Meeting monthly, times can be mutually arranged. Please telephone 01992 575017 if interested. Sister Susan Asher.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 7th April 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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Please get in touch with Ann Jackson at St. Helens for any Christmas Respository purchases. Cards available in the porch and please put money in Cards wall box.

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: Dec 2nd/3rd Sat 5.30pm: 18 Sun 8.45am: 20 Sun 10.30am: 33

Offertory Collection: £177.98

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

Thank you for your continued selfless generosity and support.

Please consider remembering the parish in your will. Thank you.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Sat 9th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 5.30pm	Saturday of the First Week of Advent The Brodie Family (Mrs Sears)
Sun 10th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	Rose Waslin RIP (Robert Fagan)
	(St. M)10.30am	Betty Howes (Cathy Duggan)
Mon 11th Dec, 2023	(Ilford) 9.30am	Monday of the Second Week of Advent Mr Nellis Morley (Kathleen Cadam) Earline Borrel & Family Happy New Year Kulddip & Brian Happy New Year Andrew Asokan Birthday
Tue 12th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent Mustapha Hassan RIP
Wed 13th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	St Lucy, V, M Frank Falco (Paul Falco)
Thu 14th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 11.00am	St John of the Cross, Pr, D O' Brien Family
Fri 15th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 9.00am	Friday of the Second Week of Advent Bridie Hehir

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) (‘Gaudete’ Sunday)

Sat 16th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 5.30pm	Saturday of the Second Week of Advent Bruno Vassallo int.
Sun 17th Dec, 2023	(St. H) 8.45am	FAMILY MASS Tony Bourke (Lillie & Marvin)
	(St. M)10.30am	Margaret Baynes Get Well
Mon 18th Dec, 2023	(Ilford)	Advent Reconciliation Service Ilford

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.