

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (B) Sunday 25th February, 2024

Genesis 22.1–2,9–13,15–18 Psalm 115 Romans 8.31–34 Mark 9.2–10

Today's first reading is a very significant episode for both Jews and Muslims, but for Christians has a very strong resonance.

The story of the son 'whom you love', who is to be sacrificed up a mountain, who carries the wood on his shoulders, has a striking poignancy as Christians contemplate Christ's Road to Calvary.

God himself will provide the lamb for the sacrifice,' the source of redemption as Paul tells the Romans: 'since God did not spare his own Son but gave him up to benefit us all.'

The knitting together of themes in the Old and New Testament is a feature of the readings of Cycle B during Lent.

When Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the Gospel, he is with Moses and Elijah, key figures in the history of salvation seen as the personification of the Law and the Prophets; both of whom also had encounters with God on mountains – Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Mount Horeb.

Typical of Mark is the lack of understanding of the disciples to the theophany but 'among themselves they discussed what "rising from the dead" could mean.

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

Frankie Harmon RIP Frankie's funeral has now been confirmed for 11.15am Wednesday 28th February at St. Helen's. Fiona and Adam, Frankie's daughter and son, have requested that people wear bright colours and NO black ties please as it will be a celebration of Frankie's life. They would like to invite those attending back to 44 Rodney Road, Ongar (Frankie's house) after the church service for her wake.

Please note there will be no 9am Mass on Wednesday 28th February due to the funeral as above.

Easter Services please see the Easter Leaflet which has now been published and will be distributed from this weekend for Lent Reconciliation Services and Holy Week dates and times.

Walk of Witness with Ongar Churches Together on Good Friday 29th March will begin at St James Church, Ongar at 10am. The walk will then proceed to St. Helen's arriving 10.20am and then onto St. Martins and concluding at United Reformed Church for hot cross buns and drinks.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Second Collection Envelopes are available in both churches for Family Fast Day on **Friday 23rd February**. **Envelopes will be collected this weekend. Thank you.**

Family Mass Please join us for our Family Mass every third Sunday of the Month. The next Family Mass is **Sunday 17th March**. Please get in touch if any child would like to be involved.

Housekeeper Required - St Helen's Presbytery, Ongar

The successful applicant will prepare meals for the Parish Priest and effectively manage the routine cleaning of the Presbytery to ensure that it provides a comfortable living space for the Parish priest.

Hours: 6 Hours per week Salary: £10.90 per hour Start Date: ASAP
Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to hr@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is 15th March 2024

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.

Pilgrimage to Fatima Information on A Day With Mary 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) is available at www adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will be hosting a very special Anniversary Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 23rd April 2024** at 1pm for service at 1.30pm. They are delighted that Bishop Alan, BCCS President, will be attending as guest of hon-

LENTEN LUNCHES 2024

Please come along and support the Parish Lenten lunches this year on 24th Feb and 2nd & 9th March at St Margaret's from 12pm until 1.30pm.

Enjoy a simple lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese.

All monies raised this year will be donated to Smile Train and Sightsavers charities.

our. Tickets for the event are £34.00 per person and should be purchased before Monday 8th April directly from their event webpage: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ Once you have purchased your tickets, please advise Julie of any special dietary requirements or seating requests by contacting her by email jabbott@bccs.org.uk or call her on 07912 277413. Guests will be seated at tables of 12.

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is inviting you to take part in several activities during Lent. We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org

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.

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: Feb 17/18 Sat 5.30pm: 19 Sun 8.45am: 23 Sun 10.30am: 34
Offertory Collection: 190.98

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 LENT (B)

Sat 24th Feb, 2024	St. H 5.30pm	Alice Drew Birthday (Sue, John & Aimee Fahey)
Sun 25th Feb, 2024	St. H 8.45am	Bob, James & Andy Robinson (Esther Robinson)
	St. M 10.30am	Frankie Harmon RIP (Ann & Graham)
Mon 26th Feb, 2024	Ilford 9.30am	Bridie Helir Birthday 29/02 John Buckley RIP Ann 23/02 McDermott Family RIP Sarah Birthday 28/02 Rev Paul Madden RIP recently deceased
Tue 27th Feb, 2024	St. H 9.00am	Nalan Hassan Get Well
Wed 28th Feb, 2024	St. H 11.15am	Frankie Harmon Funeral Service Betty and John Varellas int.
Thu 29th Feb, 2024	St. H 11.00am	Peggy Maxwell Get Well
Fri 1st Mar, 2024	St. H 9.00am	ST DAVID, Bp National Feast (Women's World Day of Prayer)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Sat 2nd Mar, 2024	St. H 5.30pm	People of our Parish
Sun 3rd Mar, 2024	St. H 8.45am	Barbara Bryan RIP (Lauren Gardner)
	St. M 10.30am	People of our Parish

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, Susan Corbin and family, Sue Potter, Philip Denton, Ivy Denton, Douglas Jordan, John Varellas, Bruno Vassallo