

# 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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St. Margaret of Scotland  
Doddinghurst Road  
Doddinghurst  
CM15 0QJ

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) Sunday 10th March, 2024

**2 Chronicles 36.14–16,19–23 Psalm 136 Ephesians 2.4–10 John 3.14–21**

Betrayal, deceit, cruelty, the death of the innocent and the moment of triumph marks Good Friday over sin and death. The lifting up of the cross on Good Friday is the instrument of Christ's victory, venerated by the people, and on leaving the church the people and ministers genuflect to it. The Passion on Good Friday is from John who portrays the Passion as a triumph.

During the Exodus, people continually complain against Moses and God sends fiery serpents among them as a punishment; when the Hebrews plead for mercy, Moses makes a bronze serpent and raise it on high, and whoever gazes on it is cured. Jesus will be lifted high and give life and salvation to all who gaze on him .

The history of Israel record Israel's infidelities and failure to keep the great covenant with God. Called to be God's people of the covenant, Israel repeatedly failed to do so. Yet God has not abandoned them, he has offered them an opportunity to return to him, through the Persian king Cyrus. If we fail to follow the covenant, it will not fail, because God is committed to us and God is always faithful.

*Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile*

**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.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held at 10.30am each Thursday during Lent before 11am Mass.

### **Suggestions for Lent:**

Read a passage from one of the Gospels each day.

Recite the Rosary every day.

Commit your time to a charity - perhaps one hour per week e.g. Cafod Big Lent Walk

Come to Mass during the week.

Make the Stations of the Cross - each Thursday before 11am Mass during Lent  
Attend the Exposition and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Thursdays 11.30-1pm during Lent.

Come to the extra services and devotions provided.

Above all, ask God for the help you need to make a good Confession before Easter.

**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. You may be interested to know that we will be joined at the start of the walk by the Indian Orthodox congregation, who use St James for their services and will be there every morning of Holy Week.

### **Update on the CAFOD Big Lent Walk**

Mary, Clara and Gloria are still walking for CAFOD. We are halfway through Lent and have walked nearly 300 km since Ash Wednesday. In that time we have raised approximately £1,000. We started with a target of £200 but, thanks to everyone's generosity, will now be able to donate much more to help people in the poorest parts of the world. Thank you very much for all your donations. We will continue to walk every day until the end of Lent and donations can still be made either in cash or online at

<https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/happy-feet2024>

Thank you again for your generosity.

**Mass, Adoration, Praise and Worship** The next Mass celebrated by Fr. Paschal Uche, followed by Prayer and Praise, will be held at Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm. All welcome.

**REPOSITORY** We have St Patrick and Easter cards for sale in the Repository at St Helen's. Please use the card box on the wall in the porch or get in touch with Ann Jackson if anything else required. Thank you.

## LENTEN LUNCHES 2024

**Please come along and support the last Parish Lenten Lunch on 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.**

**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](mailto:hr@brcdt.org)      Closing date for applications is 15th March 2024

**Volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp;** from 27<sup>th</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, but there are limited places. Applications open until the end of March. Details: <https://boscocamp.co.uk/volunteer-applications>

**Whatsapp Group:** If anyone would like to join the parish Whatsapp Group then please contact Denise Terry-Roberts at [d.terryroberts@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:ongar@brcdt.org) or whatsapp/msg 07929241350.

**Mass Attendance: Mar 2/3 Sat 5.30pm: 15 Sun 8.45am: 21 Sun 10.30am: 37**  
**Offertory Collection: 166.94**

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.**

# MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) (‘Laetare’ Sunday)

<b>Sat 9th Mar, 2024</b>	St. H 5.30pm	Betty & John Varellas Int.
<b>Sun 10th Mar, 2024</b>	St. H 8.45am	Anne Robertson Int.
	St. M 10.30am	Frankie Harmon Family Int.
<b>Mon 11th Mar, 24</b>	Ilford 9.30am	<b>Lent Reconciliation Service</b> Cuthbert Austrie Marla Singh Birthday Parishioners of Ilford Lane (Kathleen Buckley) Helen Byrne RIP (J Byrne) Liam Drennan RIP (J Byrne)
<b>Tue 12th Mar, 2024</b>	St. H 9.00am	Fr. Cyril
<b>Wed 13th Mar, 24</b>	St. H 9.00am	Lorraine Mitchell Family Int.
<b>Thu 14th Mar, 2024</b>	St. H 11.00am	Int. for sick people of the parish
<b>Fri 15th Mar, 2024</b>	St. H 9.00am	<b>Newly ordained priests of Diocese</b>

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) St Patrick’s Day

<b>Sat 16th Mar, 2024</b>	St. H 5.30pm	People of the Parish
<b>Sun 17th Mar, 2024</b>	St. H 8.45am	Thérèse Rogers RIP (Mary Kelly)
	St. M 10.30am	People of the 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