

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) Sunday 21st April, 2024

Acts 4.8–12 Psalm 117 1 John 3.1–2 John 10.11–18

This is a day of prayer for vocations. Peter addresses the Sanhedrin and boldly asserts: 'For all of the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

These voices from the earliest proclamation of the faith speak directly to the Church of today and remind us of the reality of the faith we profess.

In any human terms, it is absurd to suggest that a real shepherd would give up his life for the sake of his sheep. A shepherd would certainly seek to protect his sheep from wolves – they are his livelihood after all – but to use the language of sacrifice is extraordinary. Jesus has concern for his sheep that he is prepared to lay down his life.

And that language of love for the sheep is rooted in the love of the Father for Jesus.

The love of the Good Shepherd is totally giving. It is a divine love, which overcomes even death. The love expressed in the Resurrection in which believers are invited to participate. The nature of the love referred here: 'Think of the love that the Father has lavished upon us.'

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

Please note that Kelly Love, Parish Administrator will be on annual leave from end of next week - last day will be on Friday 26th April returning to the Parish Office on Tuesday 14th May.

This week we remember Fr. Thomas Byles, who was the priest at St. Helen's, Ongar for eight years and was among the 1,500 people to perish aboard the SS Titanic on 15 April 1912. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-17583535> and also <https://catholicparishongar.org/father-byles-st-helens-church-chipping-ongar/>

Second Collection Vocations to the Priesthood

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, or the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese and for those currently training for the priesthood. The second collection supports the education and formation of our seminarians.

100 Club Please get in touch with Anne Robertson or Bernie Wrobel to join the 100 Club or to renew your subscriptions which are now due. Forms are also available on the website catholicparishongar.org Please make any cheques payable to 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'. Thank you for your support.

Family Mass This Sunday 21st April! Please join us for our Family Mass every third Sunday of the Month. The next Family Mass is **Sunday 21st April**. Please get in touch if any child would like to be involved.

You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27th April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford. If you are interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, the Cost of Living Crisis, mental health and well-being, welcoming refugees and migrants or the causes and effects of climate change, then this is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and free registration are at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) are looking for thrill seekers with a passion for fundraising to take part in Harlow Tye Rotary's annual Harlow Water Tower Abseil on Saturday 18th May 2024. For all details, please visit our Harlow Water Tower Abseil webpage here: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> To secure your spot, a £35 entry fee will be paid to the Harlow Tye Rotary Club, with all funds raised through your efforts being donated to BCCS. Please reach out to Charlotte: cwalk-er@bccs.org.uk / 07986841178 to sign up!

**SAVE THE DATE
SUMMER TABLETOP SALE**

29TH JUNE AT ST. MARGARET'S HALL 10am- 1pm

A chance to have a clear-out and recycle, sell your craft items or collect for your chosen charity. This will also be a chance to socialise. Why not come for lunch at our pop-up Cafe.

Tables £12. Proceeds to our church funds. To book a table contact parish office or Bernie Wrobel on 01277 821986/ 07599 248172

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 25th May 2024: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come please contact Parish Office at the Presbytery.

Youth 2000 London Retreat Day: Come and See. Youth 2000 are running a retreat day for young adults (16-35) on 11th May at Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon. It is jam-packed one day event, where people come together as a community of young adults in prayer and friendship. The retreat is an invitation to come as you are, and to come and see who Jesus is and what He can do in your life. The cost £25 and more information can be found at: <https://www.youth2000.org/events/london2024>

REPOSITORY We have cards and gifts for First Holy Communion's and other occasions for sale in the Repository at St Helen's at very reasonable prices. Please use the card box on the wall in the porch or get in touch with Ann Jackson if anything else required. Thank you.

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: April 13/14 Sat 5.30pm: 16 Sun 8.45am: 35 Sun 10.30am: 28
Offertory Collection: 196.64**

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Sat 20th April, 2024	St. H 5.30pm	Mary Dowling Int. (Sue & John Fahey)
Sun 21st April, 2024	St. H 8.45am	Fr. Thomas Byles Anniv. 15/04/24 Billy Mc Laughlin RIP (Lauren Gardner)
	St. M 10.30am	Gladys Skinner RIP (1 Yr. Anniv) (Kelly Love and Family)
Mon 22nd April, 2024	Ilford 9.30am	Kathy & Joe Wyer & Family Int. Kathleen Buckley Int. Joyce Joseph Birthday Int. Tom Meenaghan RIP (Kathleen Cadam)
Tue 23rd April, 2024	St. H 9.00am	ST GEORGE, M National Solemnity Patricia Deering Int.
Wed 24th Apr, 2024	St. H 9.00am	St Mellitus, Bp of London Eileen Rennie RIP (Mary Dixon)
Thu 25th April, 2024	St. H 11.00am	ST MARK, Ev Margaret & James McDermott RIP (Mary Dixon)
Fri 26th April, 2024	St. H 9.00am	Larry Dixon RIP (Mary Dixon)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Sat 27th April, 2024	St H. 5.30pm	Alice Drew Int (Sue, John & Aimee Fahey)
Sun 28th Apr, 2024	St. H 8.45am	People of the Parish
	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