

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



St. Helen's Catholic Church
The Presbytery
87 High Street
Chipping Ongar
CM5 9DX

Parish Priest:
Fr Emile Nkumu
Phone: 01277 362645
ongar@brcdt.org

www.catholicparishongar.org



www.dioceseofbrentwood.net



St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) Sunday 7th April, 2024

Acts 4.32–35 Psalm 117 1 John 5.1–6 John 20.19–31

It is interesting to note how John paints Thomas' great scepticism. Thomas has been with the other disciples for the length of the ministry, and yet their combined witness of him of what they have seen makes no impact on him. 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made ... and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' And so Jesus appears again and offers Thomas the proof he insisted on, and Thomas' response, 'My Lord and my God', is one of the great scriptural confessions of faith. Nonetheless such proof as Thomas has demanded is not necessary, indeed, 'happy/ blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'.

The various signs that Jesus gave are signs that point to who Jesus is, and those to whom John addresses his Gospel are invited to recognise that and in doing so 'may have life through his name'. In today's first reading recorded witness of the early community – their unity and common life – also signs of the truth of their belief.

Others can see in them the truth of the Christian message and come to share in it and support it.

Keep yourself safe and well, Fr. Emile

Fr. Emile would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts and generosity over Easter and to all the volunteers for all their help in our parish.

Lenten Lunches - a grand total of £820 was raised at the three Lenten Lunches held during Lent. The proceeds were shared between two charities - £410 was donated to Smile Train and £410 was donated to Sightsavers. Thank you to all those who organised, volunteered and supported generously.

Family Mass 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.

Doddy Drop In - an informal get together for everyone held on the second Tuesday of every month 2pm at St. Margaret's Hall, Doddinghurst. Bring your crafts and games or just have a cuppa and a natter. The next one will be on Tuesday 9th April.

100 Club Renewals Just a reminder for those to renew your subscriptions to the 100 Club which are now now due. Please make any cheques payable to 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helen's'.

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: cwalker@bccs.org.uk / 07986841178 to sign up!

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>

Vocations to the Priesthood The next “Enquirers’ Evening” for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 9 April at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Joseph Rodrigues. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@brcdt.org

CAFOD and SVP are working together to offer residential work experience for 20 young adults. Candidates must be over 20 years old and have a passion for social justice. 7th -13th July All accommodation costs, meals and travel to the Office throughout the week are covered. CAFOD and SVP National Office, Romero House, Waterloo, SE1 7JB. For more info, please contact sarahb@svp.org.uk or khutchinson@cafod.org.uk

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: Mar 30/31 Sat 5.30pm: 27 Sun 8.45am: 56 Sun 10.30am: 47
Offertory Collection: £988.40

Second Collection Holy Places: £49.10

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.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Sat 6th April, 2024	St. H 5.30pm	Graine Kirane sick
Sun 7th April, 2024	St. H 8.45am	Crescentia Menon RIP (Foundation Mass)
	St. M 10.30am	Ursula & Patrick Murphy Int.
Mon 8th April, 2024	Ilford 9.30am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Solemnity Kathleen Buckley Int. Kitty McNally & Family Int. Mary Gaffney John Lewis Family deceased relatives Josie & John Byrne, Int. (M Dixon)
Tue 9th April, 2024	St. H 9.00am	Michael Ruane RIP
Wed 10th Apr, 2024	St. H 9.00am	Baxter Family deceased relatives
Thu 11th April, 2024	St. H 11.00am	St Stanislaus, Bp, M Kathleen Cadam int. (M Dixon)
Fri 12th April, 2024	St. H 9.00am	Eric Montgomery (Dolores Ledwidge)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Sat 13th April, 2024	St H. 5.30pm	Mary Gaffney Int. (Mary Dixon)
Sun 14th Apr, 2024	St. H 8.45am	Mary Dowling Int.
	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