

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddingtonhurst



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

Parish Priest:
Fr Emile Nkumu
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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Peace Day Sunday 19th January, 2025

62.1–5 Psalm 96 I Corinthians 12.4–11 John 2.1–11

From the earthly to the heavenly, The Lord gave ‘signs’ to move people so that ‘they may believe’. **John’s narrative** is pulling the reader down from the surface level of life to something deeper and effecting transformation on the way.

The story begins ‘on the third day’. Already the reader is alerted to the third day of the Resurrection, when the hour of the Lord had come with the abundance of new life emerging out of the emptiness and dryness of the tomb. ‘They have no wine’, the Mother of the Lord says. The people are running on empty, but unaware they are thirsting, that the empty jars of their lives are lying un-fulfilled and un-satisfied. It is a satiation, not just a fulness, the Lord brings. There is an intimacy and closeness to the Lord’s presence at this deeply human event.

The wedding nods to the marriage feast of the Lamb, to that spring of living water welling up to eternal life, to the fulness of life the Lord offers. He is at one with them as he is at one with his heavenly Father. This earthly life is already fermented with the divine life. ‘Here is a vintage richer for the keeping.’ His Mother appears again at the very end of the Gospel at the foot of the Cross thus bookending the Lord’s entire ministry.

She invites us to read the whole narrative through the prism of her discipleship and faith ‘so that we may believe’ and become as she is ‘a crown of beauty’ and a ‘royal diadem’ in the hand of our God.

Keep safe and well, Fr Emile Nkumu

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Sunday 19th January, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

*'You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.'*

Forthcoming Presbytery Building Repair Works will commence from Monday 20th January until Friday 14th March. The Presbytery will not be accessible at this time. The Church and the Sacristy will be accessible for Mass when scheduled. Availability of the car park will be restricted during this period - extra parking is available at Two Brewers and other nearby areas in Ongar. There will be no toilet available at the church during this period. Please email ongar@brcdt.org with any queries as usual.

Baptism We welcome to the family of the Church, Rosie Langbridge, who will be baptised in our parish this weekend. Remember their parents who are the "first and best teachers of their children in the ways of the Faith".

Lenten Lunches: Please save the following dates in your diaries for the forthcoming Lenten Lunches on Saturday 8th, 15th and 22nd March 2025.

New Diocesan Directories: The new Diocesan Directories are now available for purchase from the Repository at a price of £3.20 each. Please use card slot on wall in St Helen's Church Porch.

Second Collection - Pax Christi - Peace Sunday Sunday 19th January.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

Week of Christian Unity 2025 - Ongar Churches Together

"Do you believe this?"

From 20th to 24th January we are celebrating Christian Unity Week as part of Ongar Churches Together. As we **celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea**, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief. There will be a service each day next week at **12pm midday** at each church in Ongar.

Monday 20th Jan - Greensted Church

Tuesday 21st Jan - St Martin's Church

Weds 22nd Jan - United Reform Church

Thursday 23rd Jan - St. Helen's Catholic Church

Friday 24th Jan - St. James' Church

There will be no 9am weekday mass at St Helens on Thursday 23rd January.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) is delighted to host a **Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea** at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 4th March 2025. Guests are kindly invited to arrive for 1pm to be greeted and seated in good time for tea between 1.30 and 3.30pm. This event is open to all and promises to be a lovely afternoon celebration. Tickets are £35 per person and are available to purchase via the BCCS webpage <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> If you have any dietary requirements, please contact Julie once you have purchased your tickets, at jabbott@bccs.org.uk so that we can note these. Guests will be seated at tables of 12 so if you are coming in a group, do please email Julie to let us know your preferred seating arrangements.

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrimage to Italy The jubilee year 2025 is inviting us to visit a holy place and obtain plenary indulgence by entering through the holy door. The parish of OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS, Basildon is arranging a pilgrimage to Italy visiting the holy places along with some tourist attractions. We will visit THE VATICAN, ROME, ASSISI, PADUA, VENICE & PISA. DATE: 30TH AUGUST–4TH SEPTEMBER 2025 (6 DAYS). Superior 4* Hotel Accommodation. Adults and children over 9 years: £775; Children (2-9 years): £730. Single room supplement £220. For details email frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org.

REPOSITORY We have cards and gifts for Christmas, First Holy Communion's, Baptisms, Mass Intention Cards and other occasions for sale in the Repository in the porch at St Helen's at very reasonable prices. Please pay using 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 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, children's 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 last minute bookings only)

Hall Usage Calendar <https://catholicparishongar.org/hall-usage-calendar/>
Parish Events Diary <https://catholicparishongar.org/parish-events-calendar/>

Mass Attendance Dec 11/12 Sat 5.30pm: **40** Sun 8.45am: **18** 10.30am: **31**

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection 4/5 Dec £505.24

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection 11/12 Dec £238.32

Please make cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'
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

SATURDAY St H 5.30pm Betty Nugent RIP (Kathleen Cadam)
Frankie Harmon RIP Anniv. (Lillie & Marvin)

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) (Peace Day)

19th Jan 2025 St H 8.45am John Scott RIP (Fr. Emile and St. Helen)

St M 10.30am Birdie Cunningham Int.
Janet Roberts RIP (Tony Jones)

MONDAY Ilford 9.00am O'Brien Family
Tom McKing RIP
Angela Riordan Int.
Carlton St Hiliare RIP
Betty Nugent RIP (K Buckley)
Claire Bailey Get Well (Josie Byrne)
Darren Maguire RIP (Josie Byrne)
Larry Dixon .RIP (M Dixon)
Mary Gaffney RIP (recently Deceased)

WEDNESDAY St H 9.00am Lily Forde

THURSDAY St H 12.00pm Christian Unity Week Service

SATURDAY St H 5.30pm **THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, Ap**
Feast
Eileen Reade

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) (Sunday of the Word of God)

26th Jan 2025 St H 8.45am Kathleen Cadam Int.
Hughes Family

St M 10.30am Brian Kelleher RIP
(SVP Ongar and Doddinghurst)

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, Susan Corbin and family, Sue Potter, Philip Denton, Ivy Denton, Douglas Jordan, John Varellas, Bruno Vassallo, Fr. Emile Nkumu, William Readman, Richard Denton, Theresa Aikin