

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



St. Helen's Catholic
Church
The Presbytery
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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C) Feast Sunday 12th January, 2025

Luke 3:15-16,21-22 Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalm 28 (29) Acts 10:34-38

“A voice came from heaven” that lets me know: “Pay attention to this important message. The voice of God’s prophets and apostles speaking to us about the importance of an encounter. Isaiah cries out: “Prepare the way of the Lord!” Israel, “here is your God!” Israel and the world needed to hear this voice because they did not expect to see God arrive as an infant lying in a manger.

At the Jordan that day the people were indeed “filled with expectation” But what mattered was that they met Jesus for the first time. What mattered was that *He* was baptized, He, who cleanses us. That encounter is the voice from heaven speaking to us so that we do not miss it, saying that “because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our saviour.”

At our baptism becoming beloved sons and daughters of God is justified by grace with a right to inherit eternal life. Christ’s descent into the water that day was completed by his descent into death for us; His immersion in water was completed by his immersion into the depth of human sin and suffering.

Let us to return to what matters: to fall in love with Jesus first encounter of our own baptism in a new light. It was in baptism that we were made a member of the family who belongs here at the table, at the Eucharistic altar where Christ gives Himself to us. Christ has made us his own. In confession, in communion, all of us have entered into a deeper relationship that throws new and perhaps unexpected light on the grace of that first encounter in the baptismal font.

The voice of God speaks to us today so that we do not miss it. This is what important: who Jesus is, and who we are because of Him and in Him.

Keep safe and well, Fr Emile Nkumu

The Baptism of the Lord (C) Sunday 12th January, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

‘Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.’

Forthcoming Presbytery Building Repair Works will commence from Monday 20th January until Friday 14th March. The Presbytery will not be accessible at this time. Availability of the car park will be restricted during this period. Please email ongar@brcdt.org with any queries as usual.

Our Heartfelt Thanks to the many children who participated in the Christmas Eve family mass: Elliot, Theo, Julia, Louisa, Charlotte, Eve, Teddy, Lucas, Theodore, Nico and Sebastien and of course the many parents. Also thanks to Audrey for beautiful music and choir members who came to celebrate the birthday of Our Saviour.

First Holy Communion The children will be having their Enrolment to the First Holy Communion Programme at 5.30pm Mass on Sunday 11th January at St. Helen's.

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

Doddy Drop In - Second Tuesday of every month - the next drop in will be on Tuesday 14th January at St. Margaret's, Doddinghurst. Please join for a natter and games or bring your crafts. Tea/coffee and homemade cake usually available with no purchase necessary and a warm space welcome to everyone. The Doddy Drop In is part of the Doddinghurst Wellbeing Hub - more info can be found [here](#) (see link online). All welcome.

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.

A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: [//cafod.org.uk/jubilee](https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)

Caritas You are warmly invited to the 2025 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, taking place on Sunday, 9th February, from 2–6 pm at St. Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford RM1 4AT. This event is an opportunity to explore the Catholic response to pressing issues such as homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, supporting those affected by the Cost of Living Crisis, and addressing climate change. Join us to find inspiration during this Jubilee year, exchange ideas and best practices with parishioners across Essex/East London, and learn about the charities & resources available to support your efforts. Registration free - more details at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network.

Our next Maranatha will be on Thursday 16th January at the **Sion Community**, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX at 7pm for Mass, Praise and Worship and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome, so do join us for what has come to be a very blessed evening.
(From the Charis Diocesan Service of Communion)

Second Collection - Pax Christi Peace Sunday on Sunday 19th January.
<https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

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@bredt.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 04/05 Sat 5.30pm: **18** Sun 8.45am: **16** 10.30am: **28**
Offertory Cash/Chq Collection £TBA

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 Maggie Molden

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

Feast

12th Jan 2025 St H 8.45am Anne and Eddie Fagan RIP (Robert Fagan)

St M 10.30am John Scott RIP (Fr. Emile and St. Helen's)

MONDAY Ilford 9.00am Annette & Family
Colette Sheehan Int. (M Dixon)
Larry Dixon, RIP (M Dixon)
Jer & Linda O Mahoney int.
Kathleen Buckley Int (Eileen Riordan)
Kirrane Family (Josie Byrne)
Betty Nugent RIP
Kiuneen Family (Josie Byrne)

TUESDAY St H 9.00am Natalia de Souza & Family

WEDNESDAY St H 9.00am Bernadette Daly

THURSDAY St H 9.00am Veronica Coker

FRIDAY St H 9.00am **St Antony, Ab**
Nancy Myers RIP

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 Cunninine Int.

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