

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



St. Helen's Catho-
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The Presbytery
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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C) Sunday 5th January, 2025

Matthew 2:1-12 Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72 (71) Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek meaning “to appear” or “to be shown forth”. The first appearance of Christ to the gentiles is in the story of the visit of the three priest Kings to the divine infant Jesus.

The visit of the Magi appears to the entire world, not just a few who call themselves Christians. In Matthew 2:9-11, God’s Star in the East guides the magi (Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar) to the place of the divine birth of Christ.

Each of them came from a different culture; the first of them brought royal gifts of gold, while the 2 others brought respectively frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus.

Gold symbolizes the kingship of Christ, our own true royal Selfhood, our giving of love and service as directed and com-manded by that Self. Frankincense relates to the Godhead of Christ and our own gifts of honour and reverence to our indwelling Divinity. The gift of Myrrh, a prophecy of the death and burial of the earthly body of Christ, which represents our understanding and empathy for the suffering of humanity.

Happy New Year and keep safe and well, Fr Emile Nkumu

Communion Antiphon:

The Epiphany of the Lord (C) Sunday 5th January, 2025

**‘We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.’**

Message from Fr Emile: Thank you very much for your generous Christmas donations and all the cards and gifts kindly sent. May the New Year 2025 re-energise and enlighten us anew.

100 Club December Draw - Congratulations go to Audrey McGill who was the lucky winner of £101.00 in the 100 Club Draw for December 2024.

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.

Please Pray for the repose of the souls of Theresa Lowe RIP and Brian Kelleher RIP who recently passed away. Please remember their family and friends in your prayers. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

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.

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

Walsingham House Team 25/26: applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. For more information then please see the website: www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailley@brcdt.org

Christmas Offering It's still not too late to make your Christmas Offering to your Parish Priest, Fr. Emile Nkumu, which forms the major part of his income and salary throughout the year. Please use your Gift Aid envelopes, or if you wish to give electronically, please transfer money to the Parish Account with Reference 'Christmas' and your Gift Aid Number please: The details of the Bank Account are Account name: Catholic Church St Helens On-agar, Sort Code 40-13-22 Account Number: 01017616. With grateful thanks!

Islam Study Day In 2025 we mark sixty years since the promulgation of Nostra Aetate, the inter-faith document of Vatican II. We are delighted to welcome Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith, who will speak about Islam. The talk will take place on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.00 (11.00 GMT) in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The talk will also be available by livestream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org and will be available subsequently on the same website. The church is close to Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee available from 10.30.

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 21/22 Sat 5.30pm: **25** Sun 8.45am: **29** 10.30am: **39**

Offertory Cash Collection: **£203.78**

Mass Attendance Christmas Eve Family: **61** Midnight: **21**

Mass Attendance Christmas Day 8.45am: **30** 10.30am: **21**

Fr. Emile Christmas Cash Collection: **£831.17 Thank you!**

Mass Attendance Dec 28/29 Sat 5.30pm: **23** Sun 8.45am: **14** 10.30am: **29**

Offertory Cash Collection **£218.03**

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 John Scott RIP
(Fr. Emile and St. Helen)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Solemnity

5th Jan 2025 St H 8.45am Mrs Pat Baldwin RIP (Kathy Jeffery)

St M 10.30am Ron Scott RIP Birthday (Kathy Scott)
John Scott RIP
(Fr. Emile and St. Margaret's)

MONDAY Ilford 9.00am David & Catherine Grace Int.
Margaret Thomas Int.
Ann Hughes Birthday 4/01/2025
Jim & Ann Long Int.
Tess Brophy Int,
Vincent & Katherine Fahey Int.
Riordan Family Int.
**For all Ilford Lane weekday church
parishioners and their families**

TUESDAY St H 9.00am Ron Scott RIP Anniv. (Kathy Scott)

WEDNESDAY St H 9.00am Margaret Thomas (Kathleen Buckley)

THURSDAY St H 9.00am Kathleen Cadam (Kathleen Buckley)

FRIDAY St H 9.00am John & Kathleen Fynes
(Kathleen Buckley)

SATURDAY St H 5.30pm Maggie Molden

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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)

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