

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddingtonhurst



St. Helen's Catholic
Church
The Presbytery
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St. Margaret of Scotland
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Doddingtonhurst
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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (C) Feast Sunday 2nd February, 2025

Luke 2:22-40 Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 23 (24) Hebrews 2:14-18

From Fr. Adrian Graffy:

[Luke's lengthy gospel reading completes for us the mystery of Christmas. Jesus becomes 'completely like his brothers'. He is brought to the Temple to begin a life of service. His future path is foreseen by Simeon and Anna. His mother's pain is also foretold. He is subject to his parents in the secret life of Nazareth. But, as Simeon already proclaims, he is set to be a 'sign of contradiction', 'a light for all the nations and the glory of his people Israel'.

How does this feast reconnect us with the Christmas mysteries?

What deeper significance does Jesus' coming to the Temple contain?

Consider on this feast of Candlemas how light is a recurring theme in Bible and liturgy.

We pray for all fathers and mothers that they may treasure their children as gifts of God.

The Presentation of the Lord (C) Sunday 2nd February, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

**‘My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.’**

Presbytery Building Repair Works commenced from Monday 20th January and will continue 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 but closed at other times. 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.

Message from the Chairman of the PPC and Hall Committee with regards to the Presbytery Building Repair Works:

Kelly, our Parish Administrator, finally handed the building over on the 20 January 2025. The amount of work carried out behind the scenes, for the last year, in respect of this matter has been enormous. The protracted, and often difficult negotiations with regard to the large insurance claim, which have been led by the Diocese, but with persistent and patient input from Stan Wrobel, Kelly, and some back up from the PPC, finally came together, with agreement for the Works to commence.

Then the truly, almost impossible, task of clearing the building was achieved by a small band of helpers led by Bernie and Stan Wrobel, and Kelly also managed to find and negotiate Fr Emile's re-location to a small apartment nearby, under the terms of the insurance policy. Sue and I helped on the final weekend, doing the last clearing and cleaning, and we saw just how huge the task had been.

On behalf of both ends of the Parish, I would like to thank them for all their efforts, it is much appreciated.

Patrick Maher, Chairman of the PPC and St. Margaret's Hall Committee

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

100 Club Mike Fitzgerald was the lucky winner of £101.00 in our January 100 Club Draw. Congratulations! If you would like to join please complete application form available at church or on website and hand in to Anne Robertson or Bernie Wrobel.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Friday 18 to Friday 25 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

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.

Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre

We would like to share a recording of a talk by Rev Dr Liam Hayes on the findings of recent research by the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics into **why people no longer come to church**, commissioned by the Brentwood Diocese. See our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/why-do-people-no-longer-come-to-church/> .

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.

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: Jan 25/26 Sat 5.30pm: **17** Sun 8.45am: **22** 10.30am: **37**

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection: £484.82

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 Denis & Mary Murphy RIP

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (C)

Feast

2nd Feb 2025 **St H 8.45am** William & Elizabeth McCarthy RIP

St M 10.30am Gerald Boshell RIP (Dave Fogarty)

MONDAY Ilford 9.00am **St Anne Line, M**
Pat Cogan Ints (Kathleen Cadam)
Betty Nugent RIP
Marion Hough RIP (Fr Derek 'sister)
Kathleen Buckley Int.
The Corry Family Int.

TUESDAY St H 9.00am Kathy O' Reil nts (Kathleen Cadam)

WEDNESDAY St H 9.00am **St Agatha, V, M**
Colette Sheehan Int. (M Dixon)

THURSDAY St H 9.00am **SS Paul Miki and Comps, Mm**
Margaret & James McDermott, RIP
(M Dixon)

FRIDAY St H 9.00am Betty Nugent RIP (Eileen Riordan)

SATURDAY St H 5.30pm Birdie Cunninhine RIP (Eileen Riordan)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

9th Feb, 2025 **St H 8.45am** Tommy Gilligan RIP (Kathleen Cadam)

St M 10.30am Michael Gibbons Ints.

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, Cathy Love