

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



St. Helen's Catholic
Church
The Presbytery
87 High Street
Chipping Ongar
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Parish Priest:
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St. Margaret of Scotland
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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Peace Day Sunday 26th January, 2025

Nehemiah 8.2–4a,5–6,8–10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12.12–30 Luke 1.1–4; 4.14–21

The extraordinary events of the baptism and the temptation over, the Lord returns to his home-town and goes to the synagogue 'as was his custom'. He returns to ordinary life, to the well trodden streets, to his well-known place of worship, and to his well-kept and cherished people, and 'he found the place...' He found that place, his place, in the Scriptures which he would have heard time and again (even if doesn't quote quite exactly!) but which is now revealed to him 'in the power of the Spirit' in a new and astounding way.

This Spirit brings him to an old but new place. The poor had always been there, as had been the oppressed, the disabled, and those deprived of freedom. It was the way life was. At this moment of revelation and recognition, this 'today', he knows he has been sent to proclaim the Good News of what God was doing. This is a place of epiphany just as the baptism had been, and his time in the desert, and the Spirit is at work in all.

But now the emphasis is on mission. Now he knows he must do more than read from the book as Ezra and the Levites had done. Now he knows that he belongs in one body with these people at the margins, and that they belong to him. The Spirit resting on him rests too on these and binds them into one body, his body, a sacred whole. He sees in their brokenness and pain 'a new world, risen, stubborn with beauty, out of the heart's need'. And perhaps already, in that today of recognition, he understood the suffering of one was the suffering of all and knew his heart would 'bleed for them in return.

God Bless, Fr. Emile

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Sunday 26th January, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

**'I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.'**

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.

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.

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.

Job Vacancy: Secondary School Link Adviser Opportunity

The Diocese of Brentwood is seeking to appoint a Secondary School Link Adviser who is a practising Catholic, to support the Diocesan Board of Education and its family of schools. Further details and an application form can be obtained by emailing: victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service - Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage, 19th – 26th July 2025 Open to anyone in school year 10 and above. Join the BCYS for our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, supporting the adult pilgrimage in a week of prayer, service and fun! All details can be found at www.bcys.net/events. Funding and bursary opportunities are available.

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.

Word on Fire UK Bible Conference | Fri 21st - Sat 22nd Feb 2025 Excel Centre, East London If you want to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith come and join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for the national conference Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible. Tickets are available Fri & Sat or day pass for Sat. wordonfire.org/the-bible-event

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 18/19 Jan Sat 5.30pm: **16** Sun 8.45am: **23** 10.30am: **32**

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection £196.55

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 **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)

MONDAY	Ilford 9.00am	Kitty McNally & Family int. Betty Nugent RIP (Recently deceased) (Josie Byrne) Catherine & David Grace Int. Martin Hehir RIP (K Cadam) Larry Dixon, RIP Threasa Jordan RIP
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TUESDAY St H 9.00am **St Thomas Aquinas, Pr D**
Kathy & Joe Wyer Family Int.

WEDNESDAY St H 9.00am Mary & Brian Devlin & Family Int.

THURSDAY St H 9.00am Corry Family

FRIDAY	St H 9.00am	St John Bosco, Pr Lilly Forde Birthday
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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)

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