

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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EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Sunday 2nd March, 2025

Sirach 27.4–7 Psalm 92 1 Corinthians 15.54–58 Luke 6.39–45

If the Beatitudes and Woes placed the Lord firmly in the Prophetic tradition, this series of examples and sayings place him equally within the Wisdom tradition. Like Sirach before him, he bases this teaching on experience, the observed world, life lived and reflected upon. And he is able to bring a smile to his listeners as talks of logs in eyes and blind people leading the blind! God's revelation is not restricted to 'holy' things and places but permeates all he has made.

The Lord's regular referencing of the natural world is done not simply to give examples but to show the profound embeddedness of the human within this good earth. As with nature, so too with us. We're not totally different from trees and their fruit, figs and thorns. The whole of the natural world is shot through with the divine for those who take time to look, to ponder, and to reflect. Mary showed the way when she pondered upon and treasured her pregnancy and the events of her child's birth. She shows that we can never separate the natural from the divine, grace from nature.

God's eternal Word, Christ himself, resounds not only through the entire cosmos but is uttered through this good earth and in every human and natural event. The Lord, influenced by the Wisdom Tradition, urges us to stop and reflect for a moment on 'how things go' and so to encounter the divine in the everyday, to glimpse the imperishable in the perishable as St Paul puts it. God's eternal Word is still addressing us in the stresses and strains of this climate crisis and as we feel the shudders of God's good earth which is still 'seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil; And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell'.

Keep safe and well, Fr. Emile

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time C) Sunday 2nd March, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

**Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, says the Lord.**

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent. During Lent we are called to deepen our relationship with God (prayer), our neighbour (almsgiving) and our common home (fasting). Ash Wednesday Mass at 9am at St Helens and at 8pm at St Margaret's on Wednesday 5th March, 2025.

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 - 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.



**A Very Special Congratulations to
Bernard and Mary Adams
who celebrated their
60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary
on Friday 27th February, 2025**

Help Wanted

The works in the presbytery are scheduled to complete on 14th March and help will be needed to move Fr. Emile back from his temporary accommodation.

Help will be required 14/3 pm - cleaning, and moving furniture
15/3 am - cleaning, transport and moving furniture.

If you can help call Stan 07845 120719

Lenten Lunches: The forthcoming Lenten Lunches will be at 12pm on Saturday 8th, 15th and 22nd March 2025 at St Margaret's. Come along to enjoy Home-made Soup, Fresh Bread & Butter, Cheese plus Tea/Coffee/Soft drink. At this time of Lent please help us to raise money for Mary's Meals and Brentwood Foodbank. Lunches £5 each, children half price. All are welcome!

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

100 Club Congratulations go to No. 63 E. Leahy who won £101 in the 100 Club Draw for February. If you would like to join please speak to Bernie or Anne and forms are also available on the website.

National Churches Trust St Helen's Church has now been added to the National Churches Trust Website with some interesting information and photos

www.nationalchurchestrust.org/ongar-st-helen Thank you to Robert Fagan for his work on this to promote St. Helens and raise our profile.

LENTEN TALKS 2025 There will be a series of Lenten talks on the power and significance of the Holy Eucharist in our lives of faith, entitled, "Those who believe, don't leave." Details of the lectures are as follows:

Wed 12th March: Brendan Thompson, U.K. Programme Director for Word on Fire Ministries. **Wed 19th March:** Fr Philip Caldwell, parish priest of Salford Diocese.

Wed 26th March: Bishop Alan Williams, our own Bishop of the Diocese. **Wed 2nd April:** Fr Stephen Morrison (O Pream), Norbertine Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham. The talks will take place in the Cathedral and begin at 7.30pm.

VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

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](http://Brentwood%20Lourdes%20Pilgrimage%20-Tangney%20Tours)

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: Feb 22/23 5.30pm: **23** Sun 8.45am: **24** 10.30am: **28**

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection: £217.36

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

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Day for the Unemployed

2nd March 2025 St H 8.45am People of the Parish

St M 10.30am Mary & Bernard
60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary
(Mary & Bernard Adams)

MONDAY Ilford 9.30am **St Anne Line, M**
Alana John-Lewis Birthday

TUESDAY **St H 9.00am** **Feria**

WEDNESDAY St H 9.00am **ASH WEDNESDAY**

St M 8.00pm **ASH WEDNESDAY**

THURSDAY St M 8.00pm

FRIDAY St H 9.00am

SATURDAY St H 5.30pm People of the Parish

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

9th March, 2025 St H 8.45am People of the Parish

St M 10.30am People of the Parish

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.