

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
Doddinghurst Road
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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (C) Sunday 9th March, 2025

Deuteronomy 26.4–10 Psalm 91 Romans 10.8–13 Luke 4.1–13

In the Scriptures the desert is an ambiguous place. It is a zone of risk and promise, of betrayal and fidelity, emptiness and fullness, false nostalgia and hope. The desert is full of the tension of temptation where a choice must be made. Yet it is also a privileged space in which God encounters his people to show them who they really were, his own beloved. The little 'credo' in Deuteronomy testifies to this.

St Luke inserts the Lord's time in the desert between his baptism which confirms his divine identity and his preaching in the synagogue which outlines his mission. Full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert. Utterly clothed in God, divinely equipped for what he must go through, he is in this in-between place where he must truly confirm his divine sonship in preparation for his mission. This desert experience is not so much about cosmological struggle between the devil and the divine (the Holy Spirit makes sure of this) as of existential choice. Luke notes that the devil departs to return at the opportune time. This is when Satan would sift Peter and the others like wheat (22.31) and when he would enter Judas (22.3).

There is a contrast here: Judas denies his identity, but Peter would turn back and confirm his brothers. The Lord himself never encounters Satan again but knows that what he experienced would also be experienced by those who follow him.

Keep safe and well, Fr. Emile

First Sunday in Lent C) Sunday 9th March, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

**One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

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

Help Needed for Fr. Emile

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 please call Stan 07845 120719 Thank you.

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 £6 each, children half price. All are welcome!

Doddy Drop In: The next drop in social get together at St Margaret's will be on Tuesday 11th March. Everyone welcome!

CAFOD's family fast day is on **Friday March 14**. By praying, eating simple and giving, you'll be supporting local experts to provide simple, effective solutions to the toughest problems facing people around the world. Please collect a CAFOD envelope to make a lent offering. Your support enables CAFOD to reach out to communities worldwide, to fight poverty and injustice

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/>

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.

Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal



The *Life in the Spirit Seminars* **Registration** is now **OPEN**. Register by scanning the **QR Code** or at following link [Life in the Spirit Registration](#) and to receive more information on this special Diocesan event taking place from Easter to Pentecost in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall. The Seminars are being held over 6 Tuesday evenings from **29th April - 3rd June** inclusive and are open to all. You are warmly invited to come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own '*Holy Door*' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year as "*Pilgrims of Hope*".

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: Mar 1/2 5.30pm: **23** Sun 8.45am: **22** 10.30am: **35**

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

SAT St H 5.30pm People of the Parish

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

9th March 2025 **St H 8.45am** Felix Benedict RIP 4TH Anniv.
(Joyce Joseph)

St M 10.30am Paddy Clune RIP Anniv.

MON Ilford 9.30am Helen Byrne 1st Anniv. 04/03
(Josie Byrne)
Catherine Grace (Josie Byrne)
Barbara Int.
Larry Dixon, RIP (M. Dixon)
Tommy McDermott RIP
Mary Bishop RIP (M. Dixon)
Peter Kelly RIP (M. Dixon)

TUES St H 9.00am

WEDS St H 9.00am

THUR St H 9.00am Mary Grace RIP
Helen Byrne RIP 1st Anniv.

FRI St H 9.00am

SAT St H 5.30pm Ann Hughes RIP (Peggy Maxwell)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

16th March, 2025 **St H 8.45am**

St M 10.30am

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.