

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddingtonhurst



St. Helen's Catholic
Church
The Presbytery
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (C) Sunday 30th March, 2025

Joshua 5.9a,10–12 Psalm 34 2 Corinthians 5.17–21 Luke 15.1–3,11–32

The turning point of the parable of the Prodigal Son is verse 17. The ESV's plodding 'When he came to himself' just won't do. Something like 'Going deep into himself' (there is a double 'into') expresses better the beginning of the journey he is about to make. He is dredging for the person he truly is. This becomes apparent in his soliloquy when three times he uses the word 'father' showing that the relationship though damaged is still intact.

This deep-down interior journey enables him to discover his true self, a beloved son, and come to that momentous decision to rise and go to his father. This 'rising' is what the two companions on the road to Emmaus also do, another story of running away and returning. The same word is used in both stories, reflecting the rising of Christ after the crisis of the Cross and the potential for reconciliation he brings.

Paul's teaching about the outer self and inner self is also relevant. In Christ, there is a new creation; the old has passed and the new has come. By way of contrast, the elder son must still make this interior journey which his sense of entitlement prevents him from doing. He is still in relationship with his father – 'Son, you are always with me' – but not his brother – 'this son of yours'. The story is open ended with the elder brother outside looking in and with the entreaty and address of the Father. Perhaps, perhaps, he might discover who he truly is, a beloved son and brother, take part in the joy and gladness of the celebration, and together eat the fruit of the land by breaking bread together with his father and brother as companions on a shared journey.

Keep safe and well, Fr. Emile

Fourth Sunday in Lent C) Sunday 30th March, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

**You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.**

HOLY WEEK Our parish **Easter Leaflet** detailing services during Lent and Easter Holy Week is now available so please take one and note the dates in your diaries.

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." **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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD In a talk entitled 'A richer table of God's word', Fr Adrian Graffy explains how after the Second Vatican Council readings from all parts of the Bible were arranged so that more abundant provision of Sacred Scripture is available to all at Mass. The talk will be at 7 pm (tea and coffee from 6.30 pm) on Wednesday 2nd April at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is also available via live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org. No need to book for this free event.

BCYS Youth Mass, Brentwood Cathedral, Thursday 3rd April from 6pm

Join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service for their monthly Youth Mass this coming Thursday. Beginning with pizza in the Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm, followed by Youth-led Stations of the Cross before celebrating Mass at 7:30pm. For more information you can visit www.bcys.net, follow @brentwoodcys on social media or email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE invite applications for the post of BOOKKEEPER. (Relevant skills and experience required). 20 HOURS A WEEK. Office based in Colchester CO4 3XD. For further details please look at our website – www.canonesses.co.uk Closing date for applications May 9th, and interviews on May 23rd.

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 Ursuline - 125th Anniversary

To mark out 125th anniversary, we invite past and present staff and students to attend an anniversary Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11.15am on Saturday 26th April 2025, followed by a community celebration at Brentwood Ursuline, from 1pm-5pm. For further details and to book a place at the event, please refer to the school's website: www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk

Headteacher of St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford

NoR 416 Salary L19-L25

Closing date: Tuesday 22 April 2025 by 12 noon

Shortlisting: Wednesday 30 April 2025

Interview: Tuesday 6 May 2025

Start Date September 1st 2025 or January 1st 20.

For further details please see <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

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.

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 22/23 5.30pm: **24** Sun 8.45am: **25** 10.30am: **21**

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 Anne Kelly & Family Int. (M Dixon)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

30th March 2025 St H 8.45am Tom and Gertrude Ashworth R.I.P.
(Pat Scott)

St M 10.30am People of the Parish

MON Ilford 9.30am Sister Fidelma Dixon , int. (M Dixon)
Mary Dixon
Jenny Haliburn RIP
Baxter Family deceased
Evelyn Corbett (Josie Byrne)
Arul, Joyce's Brother, passed away in India 20/03/25

TUES St H 9.00am Jenny Haliburn RIP

WEDS St H 9.00am Eileen Mc Namara

THUR St H 9.00am Mary Raftery (Josie Byrne)

FRI St H 9.00am James Dooris int.

SAT St H 5.30pm People of the Parish

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

6th APRIL, 2025 St H 8.45am Deceased John-Lewis Family

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, Sue Potter, Philip Denton, Ivy Denton, Douglas Jordan, John Varellas, Bruno Vassallo, Fr. Emile Nkumu, William Readman, Richard Denton, Theresa Aikin, Cathy Love.