

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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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (C) Sunday 16th March, 2025

Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18 • Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28-36

Suffering is an indispensable part of the Christian way of life. But it is a suffering that is eventually transformed. The Transfiguration is a gift that Jesus gave to his disciples, and it is a gift that he gives to you and me — it is a glimpse of the glory that awaits us after our trials and tribulations. Jesus gives us this glimpse so that we can all persevere; he does it so that we do not lose hope. Jesus shines that light of his glory so that we might not despair in the darkness. That's why the psalmist is able to say: "I believed, even when I said, I am greatly afflicted" (Ps 116:10). The results of Jesus' painful departure to Jerusalem, passes through Golgotha, the place of execution, but it does not stop there.

Lent, like the Transfiguration, teaches us that our own prayer and suffering helps us work toward a share in God's glory. Our own transfiguration, like that of Jesus, is something we shall experience through prayer and a share in Jesus' suffering.

We are not left to our own devices. Jesus continues to encourage us by transfiguring himself in the sacraments of the Church. The Eucharist is where the Resurrected Christ transfigures himself, hiding under the appearance of bread and wine. He does this to help us change, to help us transfigure, so that we become detached from ourselves and that his divine life might dwell more perfectly within us. Reception of the Eucharist helps us who are weak and sinful be transformed into a new creation, into Jesus' own image and likeness. Let us persevere in prayer and penance with an eye on the divine glory which awaits us.

Keep safe and well, Fr. Emile

Second Sunday in Lent C) Sunday 16th March, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

**Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.**

Let not our enemies exult over us.

Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

Presbytery Building Repair Works We are happy to report that the Presbytery repair works have now been successfully completed and Fr. Emile moves back to the Presbytery on Saturday morning and the Parish Office will now be open properly again. Thank you very much to Stan and Bernie, Sue and Pat and Jim to all those helping us with the difficult task of moving everything back and forward to facilitate this and also for all the help with cleaning for Fr. Emile.

Lenten Lunches: After a very successful first Lenten Lunch last Saturday, the next Lunch will be at 12pm on Saturday 15th and then also Saturday 22nd March 2025 at St Margaret's. Come along to enjoy Home-made Soup, Fresh Bread & Butter, Cheese plus Tea/Coffee/Soft drink to gather together with other members of our parish and local community. At this time of Lent please help us to raise money for Mary's Meals and Brentwood Foodbank. Lunches £6 each, children half price. Thanks to everyone for their support. All are very welcome!

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.

Joint Charity Bingo and Jacket Night - F.O.A.S and St Margaret's

We are pleased to announce that our share of the profits from the joint Friends of All Saints and St Margaret's Bingo and Jacket night held at St. Margaret's on the 1st of February was just over £166.00 to go to church funds. A very enjoyable time was had by all, and I would like to thank those parishioners that supported us. *Sue Maher*

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/>

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.

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.

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 8/9 5.30pm: **16** Sun 8.45am: **30** 10.30am: **38**
Offertory Cash/Chq Collection: 02.03.25 - £515.67, 09.03.25 - £202.70
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 Hughes R.I.P.
(Peggy Maxwell)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

16th March 2025 **St H 8.45am** Eulogio De Souza R.I.P. Anniv.

St M 10.30am Claver De Souza R.I.P. Anniv.
14/03

MON Ilford 9.30am **St Patrick, B, Patron of Ireland**
Mary Grace (Catherine Grace)

TUES St H 9.00am Peter Kelly R.I.P.

WEDS	St H 9.00am	ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Mary Lohan R.I.P.
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THUR St H 9.00am

FRI St H 9.00am **FAMILY LENT FAST DAY**

SAT St H 5.30pm Tom and Gertrude Ashworth R.I.P.
(Pat Scott)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

23rd March, St H 8.45am 2025 Theresa Lowe R.I.P. recently deceased (Pat Scott)

St M 10.30am John Scott R.I.P. recently deceased
(Pat Scott)

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.