

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddingtonhurst



St. Helen's Catholic
Church
The Presbytery
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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (C) Sunday 23rd March, 2025

Exodus 3.1–8a,13–15 Psalm 103 1 Corinthians 10.1–6,10–12 Luke 13.1–9

God is the Radically Other, the one who is not only more than we imagine but more than we can possibly imagine (cf. Eph. 3.20). The One who remains beyond our ideas, our language, and our naming. By asking what to call him, Moses wants to tame and capture the Divine so that he can control, and manipulate, and bargain as with any nature god of the time. He wants to collapse the distance between himself and God. He remains elusive and beyond his grasp, yet addresses Moses.

The Radically Other comes close as he converses with him. He recalls Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to show that he enters into history and into a relationship (covenant) with humankind. He it is who accompanies, addresses, and converses yet always remains beyond. God opens up a sacred space which allows Moses to be captivated by him as the One who walks with him and calls him by name. Despite the distance, there is a deep intimacy. So close is he, that he identifies with human breath ('Ey-yeh' I AM). Jesus reminds his listeners that when they think they understand the ways of God, it is precisely then that they fail. Paul makes the same point in the passage from 1 Corinthians. The metanoia to which the Lord calls them is for a change and a turn in their way of thinking. They are urged to 'turn aside', as Moses did, and be really changed.

It is this deep experience of the Holy that ensures the right relationship with God and neighbour. God gives plenty of time for this to bear fruit, but it certainly begins with getting rid of the sandals and any protective gear and feeling the warm, sacred ground on which everyone stands and where God's Word is to be heard.

Keep safe and well, Fr. Emile

Third Sunday in Lent C) Sunday 23rd March, 2025

Communion Antiphon:

**For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.**

Lenten Lunches: After another very successful (and delicious!) Lenten Lunch on the last two Saturday's, the final Lenten Lunch will be at 12pm on Saturday 22nd March 2025 at St Margaret's. If you have not had a chance yet please do come along to enjoy delicious 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.

CAFOD's family fast day was on **Friday March 14**. By praying, eating simple and giving during Lent, you'll be supporting local experts to provide simple, effective solutions to the toughest problems facing people around the world. There is still time to 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.

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 Vacancy - St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch Required from 1st September 2025. Deadline for applications: **4:00 pm on Wednesday 26th March 2025.** We welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. If required please liaise with the School Office Manager, Joanne Brooks. Information and application packs are available at admin@stmcpss.co.uk and completed applications should be sent to this address also. Further information is available from the school website: <https://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk/>

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 15/16 5.30pm: **24** Sun 8.45am:**26** 10.30am: **33**

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection: £354.25

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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

23rd March 2025	St H 8.45am	Theresa Lowe R.I.P. recently deceased (Pat Scott) Barry Parkin R.I.P. Anniv.
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St M 10.30am John Scott R.I.P. recently deceased
(Pat Scott)

MON	Ilford 9.30am	Sister Fidelma Dixon , int. (M Dixon) Mary Dixon Jenny Haliburn RIP Baxter Family deceased Evelyn Corbett (Josie Byrne)
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TUES St H 9.00am **The Annunciation of the Lord**

WEDS St H 9.00am Eileen McNamara

THUR **St H 9.00am** **Mary Raftery (Josie Byrne)**

FRI St H 9.00am

SAT St H 5.30pm The People of the Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

30th March, St H 8.45am The People of the Parish
2025

St M 10.30am The 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.