

# The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddinghurst



St. Helen's Catholic  
Church  
The Presbytery  
87 High Street  
Chipping Ongar  
CM5 9DX

Parish Priest:  
**Fr Emile Nkumu**  
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[catholicparishongar.org](http://catholicparishongar.org)

[www.dioceseofbrentwood.net](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)

St. Margaret of Scotland  
Doddinghurst Road  
Doddinghurst  
CM15 0QJ



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (C) Sunday 6th April, 2025

Isaiah 43.16–21 Philippians 3.8–14 John 8.1–11

The Gospel reading of the woman caught in adultery has square brackets around it: approach with caution. Most scholars seem to agree it wasn't written by John, it's more like the synoptics in style. It didn't appear in the early manuscripts, but was there from around the third century onwards, as if it forced its way in by popular demand. It's a story of radical forgiveness, the 'new thing' foreshadowed by Isaiah that Jesus embodied so dramatically. It's a story of another trap for Jesus, by unforgiving men. Since they couldn't accuse Jesus of any wrongdoing, they found a woman who had been caught in the very act of adultery. There is no mention of the other person required for this act, the man, who would also have faced death. It's a story of male conspiracy and coercion. The woman is *caught-brought-placed* before the crowd. Agree to her death and Jesus incurs the wrath of the Romans, keeping a close eye from the parapets of the Temple; let her go and he incurs the wrath of the religious authorities for undermining the law of Moses. Jesus takes his time and then asks the one who hasn't sinned to cast the first stone. They all know they have sinned, especially the eldest, who drops the first hand-sized stone to the ground. They know they are sinners, but they're not ready to accept a new life as forgiven sinners. They'd rather be the ones holding other people in sin, that's what binds them. Jesus breaks the spell of the lynch mob, they dissipate, for now. Jesus, alone with the woman, forgives her and calls her to a new life, 'sin no more'. Jesus 'anoints her with dignity', according to Pope Francis. 'That's why people followed Jesus. He gave them dignity. Jesus restores the true worth of each person and the people as a whole because He can see with God's eyes'

*Keep safe and well, Fr. Emile*

## **Fifth Sunday in Lent C) Sunday 6th April, 2025**

Gospel Acclamation:

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

Communion Antiphon:

**Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.**

**HOLY WEEK** Please note that we have a **REVISED Easter Leaflet** detailing services during Lent and Easter Holy Week now available so please take latest one and note the dates in your diaries. Please note the 3pm service on Good Friday with now take place at St Helen's, Ongar.

**Good Friday Walk of Witness** The Walk of Witness on Good Friday will begin from St James Church at 10 am and process to St Helens, St. Martins and end at URC with tea/coffee and hot cross buns, which we are also handing out to the public in napkins with a Bible message as part of our evangelism activities. It would be great if as many as possible could support us from both ONGAR and Doddinghurst.

**100 Club** Congratulations go to Denise Terry-Roberts, number 40, won the March who won £101.00 in the 100 Club Draw for March 2025. If you would like to join please speak to Bernie or Anne and forms are also available on the website.

**Ongar Town Festival** Unfortunately, it will not be possible for St. Helen's to participate in the Ongar festival on 4<sup>th</sup> May this year. This is because of a general lack of interest. I will inform the organisers. *B. Wrobel*

### **CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal**

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church on Sat 12th/Sun 13th April or you can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

### **Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher Vacancies in Brentwood Diocese**

[Headteacher – St Peter's School, Romford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Tuesday 22nd April 2025

[Deputy Teacher - St Patrick's Primary School, Walthamstow](#)

Deadline for applications: 15:00, Monday 28th April 2025

[Headteacher - St Mary's Primary School, Hornchurch](#)

Deadline for applications: 17:00, Monday 28th April 2025

**EASTER VIGIL READINGS** The Readings are a high point in the celebration of the Easter Vigil. In order to assist priests and people in managing these readings, Fr Adrian Graffy has prepared commentaries on each of them. Go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Click on Scripture Readings, and follow the links.

**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](http://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 - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

To mark out 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we invite past and present staff and students to attend an anniversary Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11.15am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.brentwoodursuline.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](mailto: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](mailto: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 29/30 5.30pm: **25** Sun 8.45am: **26** 10.30am: **33**

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection: 23/03 £174.28 30/03 £584.74

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
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)</b>		
<b>6th April 2025</b>	<b>St H 8.45am</b>	Deceased John-Lewis Family
	<b>St M 10.30am</b>	People of the Parish
MON	Ilford 9.30am	Bridie Doherty Kathleen Buckley Int 20/04/25 Kathy & Joe Wyer Int (M Dixon) Patrica Deering, int, (M Dixon) Catherine Lawlor Int. Eileen Reade Int Kitty McNally & Family Int. (M Dixon) Michael Baynes Ruby Alie Birthday 8/5/25 Gary John –Lewis 3/7/25
TUES	St H 9.00am	Larry Dixon RIP {M Dixon}
WEDS	St H 9.00am	Patrica Halloran Int
	<b>St H 7.00pm</b>	<b>Reconciliation Service</b>
THUR	St H 9.00am	Margaret & James McDermott RIP
	<b>St M 7.00pm</b>	<b>Reconciliation Service</b>
FRI	St H 9.00am	Bridie Shrimpton 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (Josie Byrne)
SAT	St H 5.30pm	Caroline King Get Well Soon
<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C)</b>		
<b>13th APRIL, 2025</b>	<b>St H 8.45am</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>St M 10.30am</b>	Rita Docka Birthday Age 93 (Ann & Graham Bateson)

**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.