

The Catholic Parish of Ongar & Doddingtonhurst



St. Helen's Catholic
Church
The Presbytery
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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C) Sunday 13th April, 2025

Luke 19.28–40 Isaiah 50.4–7 Psalm 21(22).8–9,17–20,23–24
Philippians 2.6–11 Luke 22.14 – 23.56

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowd believed that he was coming to their rescue, that he would act as the strike that would end Roman rule and give Israel its independence. In Luke's version the crowd are heard to cry 'Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' (Luke 19.20). This pronouncement of Jesus as King along with the use of palms, a symbol of Israel's quest for independence, were a declaration to the Roman authorities of violent rebellion.

But Jesus did not intend it to be as such. Rather by riding a donkey into Jerusalem, he indicated his desire to be the Lamb of God, a symbol of peace and nonviolence, something that we must aspire to be. Catholic social teaching tells us that, like Jesus, we must wage peace on behalf of all peoples, not just those of our own nations or ethnic group. 'Peace is not merely the absence of war; nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called an enterprise of justice'. But to pursue peace and justice we must become counter cultural, adopting a humble approach (Luke 22), seeking honest dialogue with those whom we disagree.

These readings provide a sharp reminder that the Christian path is often one of derision and humiliation. How we react is up to us. We can react with violence in word and deed, or we can follow the path set out for us by Jesus when he healed the soldier's ear serving others humbly as the symbol of a nonviolent kingdom.

Keep safe and well, Fr. Emile

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord C) Sunday 13th April, 2025

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

**Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Communion Antiphon:

**Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.**

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.

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 using the Green Lent Envelopes or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

Assisted suicide Bill even worse than before - postcards available

Committee Stage of the assisted suicide Bill has ended. It is now weaker and less safe than it was before. 300+ amendments that sought to strengthen safeguards in the Bill and protect vulnerable groups were rejected by Bill supporters, including protection for people with disabilities and domestic abuse victims. **Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details and post it to your MP today!**

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 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 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](#)

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: Apr 5/6 5.30pm: **25** Sun 8.45am: **31** 10.30am: **30**

Offertory Cash/Chq Collection: £261.29

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C)

SAT 12 APR	St H 5.30pm	Jenny Haliburn RIP
SUN 13 APR	St H 8.45am	Caroline King Get Well Soon
	St M 10.30am	Rita Docka Birthday Age 93 (Ann & Graham Bateson)
MON 14 APR	Ilford 9.30am	Sean Walsh RIP (E. Riordan)
TUE 15 APR	St H 9.00am	
WED 16 APR	St H 9.00am	
THU 17 APR	St M 7.30pm	EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (MAUNDY THURSDAY)
FRI 18 APR	Ongar 10.00am	Walk of Witness 10am Start at St James, Ongar
	St H 3.00pm	FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (C)

SAT 19 APR	St H 7.30pm	THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT (C) People of the Parish
SUN 20 APR	St H 8.45am	People of the Parish
	St M 10.30am	Fr. Andrew Hurley RIP, Lesley Boyall RIP, Brian Arnell RIP (Richard Arnell & Arnell Family)

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.