



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

The Catholic Parish of Ongar and Doddinghurst

Email: ongar@brcdt.org

Tel: 01277 362645

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) SUNDAY 18th JANUARY 2026



Response to Psalm
Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, Alleluia.
The word was made flesh and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:
You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice
that quenches my thirst.

*Image: Saint John the Baptist Pointing Out
Christ as the Lamb of God
Source: Wikimedia*

Artist: Master of the Saint John Altarpiece, circa 1510-1510

Our parish newsletter can also be found online at catholicparishongar.org where any links can be accessed.
Parochial Administrator: Fr. Frank Westcott

In Case of Emergency If there is no answer from the parish phone and you are seeking a priest in an emergency then please call one of the local parishes; either Loughton 02085083492 or Epping 01992572516 or any nearby parish.

Electronic Giving Device (rear of St Helen's church) : Dona Device

We now have new electronic facilities available for Offertory, the Repository, and general donations. The instructions are mostly self-explanatory; however, if you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Walsingham House/Abbotswick Visitors We now have some young people staying at the Presbytery, for a while, whilst some fire safety work is carried out at Walsingham House. This may continue for a few months and they are aware of the current weekly parish usage of the Presbytery. Please welcome them with our usual warmth and kindness.

St Margaret's Hall Committee Meeting

The next Hall Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th January 2pm at St Margaret's.

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. For information or to make a booking please contact Kelly Love on ongar@brcdt.org or 01277 362645
Hall Usage Calendar <https://catholicparishongar.org/hall-usage-calendar/>

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 the Dona device or get in touch with Ann Jackson if anything else required.

Mass Times and Intentions

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Peace Day)

SAT 17 JAN	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	Dr. Ben Menon Ints
SUN 18 JAN	St H 8.45am	Frankie Harmon RIP 2 nd Anniv. (Lillie, Marvin & Charlotte)
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish
MON 19 JAN		<i>No Weekday Parish Mass</i>
TUE 20 JAN	St H 9.00am	Mrs Elmer Paust RIP - recently deceased (Gwen & Kieran McCormack)
WED 21 JAN	St H 9.00am	St Agnes, V M Peter Smith RIP (Paul Falco)
THU 22 JAN	St H 9.00am	Holy Souls
	St H 12.00pm	Christian Unity Week Service
FRI 23 JAN	St H 9.00am*	St Francis de Sales, Bp, D Holy Souls

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Sunday of the Word of God)

SAT 24 JAN	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	Anne Mary Fagan RIP (Robert Fagan)
SUN 25 JAN	St H 8.45am	Liz Carey RIP (Lauren Gardner)
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish



The Sacrament of Individual Reconciliation is available on request at St Margaret's, Doddinghurst following the 10.30am Sunday Mass.

Prayer List:

Please pray for all our parishioners and friends who are sick and need the benefit of our love and prayers: Alan Chapman, Maureen Hamilton, Lucy Gay, Sue Potter, Philip Denton, Douglas Jordan, John Varellas, Bruno Vassallo, Richard Denton, Theresa Aikin, Finlay Wilson and Family, David Love, Curtis & Family, Hayley Duff & Family, Bethany Luetchford & Family, Ann Bateson, Wayne Aikin, Frances Wiseman.

Please also pray for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please contact the parish office. Let us keep one another in our prayers.

***EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION / HOLY HOUR following 9.00am Mass at St Helen's on Fridays**

Week of Christian Unity 2024 - Ongar Churches Together

'There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling' (Ephesians 4:4).

From 19th to 23rd January we are celebrating Christian Unity Week as part of Ongar Churches Together. There will be a service each day next week at **12pm midday** at each church in Ongar.

Monday 19th Jan - Greensted Church

Tuesday 20th Jan - St Martin's Church

Weds 21st Jan - United Reform Church

Thursday 22nd Jan - St. Helen's Catholic Church

Friday 23rd Jan - St. James' Church

Could You Help Compose Our Bidding Prayers?

We are looking to expand our team of parishioners who help prepare the monthly bidding prayers, following the Liturgical Year (A). This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the parish to get involved and support the spiritual life of our church. There are plenty of online resources available, and guidance will be provided.

If you are interested, or if you would like to find out more, please speak to Fr. Frank, Lorraine, Audrey, or Denise. Flexibility is offered—if the rota does not suit your schedule due to holidays or other commitments, team members are welcome to swap dates among themselves. Please consider joining us in this meaningful ministry!

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham (23 May 2026)

A day pilgrimage of prayer with Mass, picnic, the Holy Mile walk and Vespers/Benediction at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham with opportunities for young people to serve and an optional overnight at Walsingham

House beforehand.

Brentwood Cathedral Lunchtime Recital - VIOLIN - SOPRANO – PIANO

We are much looking forward to a rather special Lunchtime Recital to take place in Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 24th January at 1.30 pm. The musicians are Amy Bradshaw – Violin, Katherine O’Hanlon – Soprano accompanied by Kathy Underhill on the Piano. As this Recital is unusually taking place on a weekend, we hope this will enable you to bring your friends and especially a good opportunity for young school students to join us. The music selection will include pieces by Mozart, Offenbach, Debussy, Bach and others. Do hope you can support our young musicians.

Monthly Youth Mass

5th February 2026 - Less than 2 weeks before we begin the season of Lent, the SVP will join us to help us begin to think, reflect and prepare with their new resources.

5th March 2026 - Join us for Stations of the Cross during Lent – a simple, meaningful way to slow down, reflect, and journey with Jesus through real-life struggles and hope.

Please note there is NO Youth Mass in April as this falls on Maundy Thursday.

Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage (18-25 Jul 2026)

Applications are open online for this years’ Lourdes pilgrimage for those in year 10 and above. You can find all information and the link to apply at www.bcys.net/events/sl26

As always, there is funding available for which we can provide advice and support. We hope to have as many different schools and parishes represented as possible so if there is any support we can give, please do get in touch.

Flame! (6th March 2027)

Coming up in March 2027, we will be liaising with schools and parishes to book groups in for this fantastic national event at Wembley Arena. All details on how to purchase group tickets will be sent separately, but we will be asking for rough numbers before the end of this month!

World Youth Day (1-8 Aug 2027)

Also in 2027, we are excited to be taking a group to World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea. It is the largest international gathering of young Catholics, with a mix of cultural, faith and social based activities throughout the week. This will be open to all those who have left school by Summer 2027 (anyone currently in school year 13 and above). At the moment, we are just gauging interest and taking registrations online at www.bcys.net/events/wyd27/

Diocesan Headteacher Vacancies

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

[Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 09:00, Wednesday 28th January 2026

[Headteacher - St Francis Primary School, Braintree](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 1st February 2026

Parish Finance Administrator- Southend

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Finance Administrator.

All applicants should have good administrative and finance skills, although training will be given.

The post will be part-time working 6 hours per week – (working pattern tbc). The salary is £12.60 per hour. The closing date for applications is 9th February 2026 and suitable applicants will be invited to attend an interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV to southend@brcdt.org

Diocese of Brentwood

Later this month our diocese will host the relics of St Gerard Majella at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint.

Monday 19th January – Holy Trinity, Basildon

Wednesday 21st January – Sts James & Helen – Colchester,

Thursday 22nd January – Our Lady of the Rosary & St Patrick, Walthamstow,

Friday 23rd January – St Anthony, Forest Gate

BCCS Afternoon Tea

The Brentwood Catholic Children Society is delighted to kick off the year with an invitation to Afternoon Tea. Hosted in the opulent surroundings of the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 17th February 2026 (13:30-15:30)**. Set in the elegant ballroom of this prestigious venue, this fundraising event promises an experience of true luxury.

Tickets are £35 per person - for more information or to book your place search [//www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/) or contact Julie (jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912277413).

World Leprosy Day

Sunday 25th January marks World Leprosy Day, which aims to raise awareness of a disease that many people think no longer exists. Each year, 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy and there are millions more who are living with the damaging consequences of delayed leprosy treatment because of the stigma that still surrounds the disease. St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG), which is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity, has been caring for people with leprosy for 130 years. Our aim is to find and treat people with leprosy before they develop disabilities. Please consider supporting this vital work and keep people affected by leprosy in your prayers.

www.stfrancisleprosy.org.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

As part of compliance with safeguarding, any **children under 16 using the Presbytery toilet will need to be accompanied by an adult. Please be careful when using the uneven stairs on route.**

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Margaret Payne 01277 362203 and Audrey McGill 01277 823485

Please note there is a Hearing Loop available at St Helen's Church...please ask Fr Frank to activate it if required.

Mass Attendance: 10/11 Jan 5.30pm: 22 Sun 8.45am: 41 10.30am: 39

Offertory/Cheque Collections 04/01: 256.75

Offertory/Cheque Collections 11/01: 320.02

Please make cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'

For electronic payments please email ongar@brcdt.org

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.