



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



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A) SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2026



Response to Psalm
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia.

**The heavens were opened and voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.
Alleluia.**

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said:

**I have seen and testified
that this is the Son of God.**

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.

Smile Train Christmas Card at St Margaret's A big thank you to everyone who signed the Smile Train Christmas Card at St Margaret's as alternative way of sending cards at Christmas in the parish. An amazing £200 for the charity was raised. This will help provide a forever smile and second chance at life to children living with an untreated cleft. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Guild of St Stephen

Recently, on St Stephen's Day, we marked a wonderful occasion as our altar servers John, Basil, and Julia renewed their commitment to the Guild and were presented with new medals.

If anyone is interested in becoming an altar server at St Helen's or St Margaret's, please feel free to speak to Fr Frank.

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

SAT 10 JAN	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	John, Milly, Cissie Scott RIP (Pat Scott)
SUN 11 JAN	St H 8.45am	People of the Parish
	St M 10.30am	Ron Scott RIP (Anniv.) Kathy Scott
MON 12 JAN		<i>No Weekday Parish Mass</i>
TUE 13 JAN	St H 9.00am	Foundation Mass John Piggott
WED 14 JAN	St H 9.00am	Patrick & Ursula Murphy Ints.
THU 15 JAN	St H 9.00am	Communion Service
FRI 16 JAN	St H 9.00am*	Holy Souls

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

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**

Mass Intention Query We recently received a mass intention envelope containing £20, requesting an intention for a Saturday Evening Mass. Unfortunately, no recipient name or contact details were included, so we have been unable to complete the intention. The request was written with a black sharpie-type pen. If anyone recognises this, please get in touch with Fr Frank or the Parish Office.

100 Club Congratulations go to No. 43 – Audrey McGill who won £105.00 in the 100 Club Draw for December. Please see Anne Robertson or Bernie Wrobel if you would like to join for a chance to win the draw on the last Sunday of every month.

Doddy Drop In

The next Doddy Drop In will be on Tuesday 13th January between 2-4pm at St Margaret's. Please come and join us on the second Tuesday of every month.

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!

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 year's 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.

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.

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 Job 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).

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: 3/4 Jan 5.30pm: 42 Sun 8.45am: 28 10.30am: 31

Offertory/Cheque Collections: TBA

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.