

The Catholic Parish of Ongar and Doddingtonhurst



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

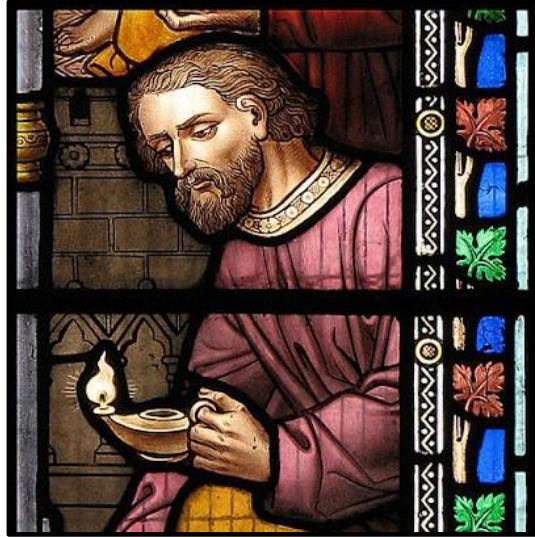
St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddingtonhurst Road
Doddingtonhurst
CM15 0QJ



Email: ongar@brcdt.org

Tel: 01277 362645

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2026



Response to Psalm:
A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, Alleluia.

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.**
Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:
**Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.**

Image: Light for Others - Stained glass in St. Mary's, Melton Mowbray, Great Britain ca. 1900? - Artist Unknown
Source: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55830>

Our parish newsletter can also be found online at catholicparishongar.org where any links can be accessed.

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Frank Westcott

Please Note:

This week there will be a weekday Mass on Monday 9th February but not on Tuesday 10th February.

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 have some young people currently 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.

Confirmation Class – Registration Now Open

“Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit” Acts 8:17

We are considering offering Confirmation Class (depending on numbers) starting in late February for young people currently in year 11 and above. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Fr Frank or the parish office for more information or to register your interest.

Doddy Drop In This takes place on the second Tuesday of every month at St Margarets, Doddingtonhurst.. Everyone welcome to join for a cuppa, natter, games (Uno and Scrabble are the favourites!) or can bring crafting etc. The next Doddy Drop in will be **2-4pm on Tuesday 10th February**.

Mass Times and Intentions

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SAT 7 FEB	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	People of the Parish
SUN 8 FEB	St H 8.45am	Lillian & Bill Tillott RIP (Lillie & Family)
	St M 10.30am	Eddie Terry 'In Thanksgiving' (The Terry Family)
MON 9 FEB	St H 9.00am	Holy Souls
TUE 10 FEB	St H 9.00am	<i>No Weekday Parish Mass</i>
WED 11 FEB	St H 9.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes, Principal Patroness of the Diocese
THU 12 FEB	St H 9.00am	Holy Souls
FRI 13 FEB	St H 9.00am*	Holy Souls

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (World Day for the Sick)

SAT 14 FEB	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	People of the Parish
SUN 15 FEB	St H 8.45am	Deceased members of Bergin Family (Mary Bergin)
	St M 10.30am	Pat Annesley Int. (Ann & Graham)



The Sacrament of Individual Reconciliation is available on request at St Margaret's, Doddington 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**

LENTEN LUNCHES 2026

Dear Parishioners, As we approach the season of Lent, we will once again be holding our parish Lenten lunches at St Margaret's on the first three Saturdays of Lent (21/2, 28/2 & 7/3). This is a very important event in the parish calendar and all the money raised from the lunches is split between an international charity and a local charity.

It has always been a successful event and relies totally on volunteers from the parish to set up the hall, make the soup, serve, wash-up and tidy away ready for Sunday Mass. It also raises our profile locally and is well supported by Doddington villagers.

At the masses over the next few weekends, we will be asking for volunteers to commit to helping in any way they can but even if you are unable to offer help please come along and support the event by enjoying a simple lunch with us.

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.

BCCS Crib Collection: Thank you to all those who donated to the Crib Collection which raised £60.69 for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

SECOND COLLECTION - LOURDES FUND APPEAL: Next weekend we will have the annual collection for the diocesan Lourdes Fund, in honour of the patroness of our diocese whose feast we celebrate on Wednesday. This collection makes it possible for people to go on pilgrimage who would be unable to spend this time in Lourdes without support from our team of doctors, nurses and helpers, or without financial assistance. Your support is much appreciated.

Gentlemen! - Specially for Valentine's day - heart decorated lavender bags - still £2.50, cheaper than a card and a bunch of flowers and the scent lasts longer and you will be supporting Aid to the Church in Need in Ukraine. Only a few available - will bring on Sunday 8th February to St Margaret's.. *Margeret Payne*

Update on Open the Book I have spoken to Mrs Deans Head Teacher of Dr. Walker's Primary school, who is offering an invitation to anyone wanting to know more to visit with the Open the Book team to get a first hand feel for this very rewarding activity.

If you are interested please contact me Margaret Payne on 07946076609 or 01277362203
mpaynegal@googlemail.com

CAFOD – The Big Lent Walk

This Lent, I'm walking 200km over 40 days in solidarity with those who walk miles each day just to access safe water. Your sponsorship will help bring clean, safe water to communities around the world. This Lenten challenge is really important to me, and your support would mean so much. Will you support my walk? All details on my fundraising page at the link below. *Thank you, Jim Browning*
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/jamess-fundraising-page2482>

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!

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026:

Will take place at **Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall** commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm
The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?"
This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood. All Welcome!

Talk 1. Wednesday 25th February. Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem. "I Believe..." Living and Proclaiming the Catholic Faith. 7.30pm

Talk 2. Wednesday 4th March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints. 7.30pm

Talk 3. Wednesday 11th March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

Talk 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm



CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection

This Lent, live the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you can help another family put food on the table. Your donation to CAFOD can help families around the world grow food in challenging conditions. Collect a CAFOD envelope or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK: Please pray for all those living out the vocation to marriage and couples preparing to marry. Support is available for those who need it, and your parish priest can point you in the right direction. If you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let your parish priest know so that you can be invited to the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Saturday 11th July.

St Helen's Catholic Infant and Nursery School: Nursery Opening

Our infant school is actively seeking support from the local community to resource its new nursery, ready for its opening in September 2026. The school now has an Amazon Wishlist which is solely dedicated to resourcing the nursery. If you would like to show your support to the exciting addition to our infant school and parish community, the link to the list is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/owner-view/CE4GY31VU4JM?ref=gr_universal_landing_ggr

St Helen's Catholic Infant and Nursery School: Nursery Applications 2026-27

The nursery admission round is now open for parents of children to apply for a nursery place for the academic year that starts in September 2026. The application form is available on the school website and applications must be made directly to the school. The closing date for applications is: 20th March 2026.

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood 2026 Networking Day

Saturday 7th March, 1pm – 5pm Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Cambridge Park, Wanstead, E11 2PR.
Keynote speaker – Jenny Sinclair. This is an opportunity to connect, share ideas and learn from others passionate about social action, including a wide variety of charitable organisations. Whether you're a parishioner, volunteer, member of the clergy, school staff member or simply passionate about making a difference in the Diocese of Brentwood, this event is for you. For free registration, go to www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

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.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Would you like to join our bishop and parishioners and clergy from around the diocese on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer? The dates are Friday 17th - Friday 24th July. Please visit <https://tangney-tours.com/brentwood> for further information and to book, or contact Deirdre Pembroke, lourdes@brcdt.org if you have any questions. Paper booking forms to follow.

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.

Monthly Youth Mass

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.

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/

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).

Headteacher Vacancy

The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch, are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher. **Closing date: Friday 6th March 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 20th March 2026.** Enquiries can be made by email to admin@stmcps.co.uk, or phone 01708 448430.

Romanian Latin Rite Mass is now being celebrated every Sunday at 2pm in the Church of Our Lady Immaculate, 122 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0RG.

SAFEGUARDING 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 CFr Frank to activate it if required.

Mass Attendance: 31 Jan/01 Feb 5.30pm: 25 Sun 8.45am: 26 10.30am: 39

Offertory/Cheque Collections: £590.59

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

For electronic payments please email ongar@brcdt.org or use the Dona machine at 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.