

The Catholic Parish of Ongar and Doddinghurst



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

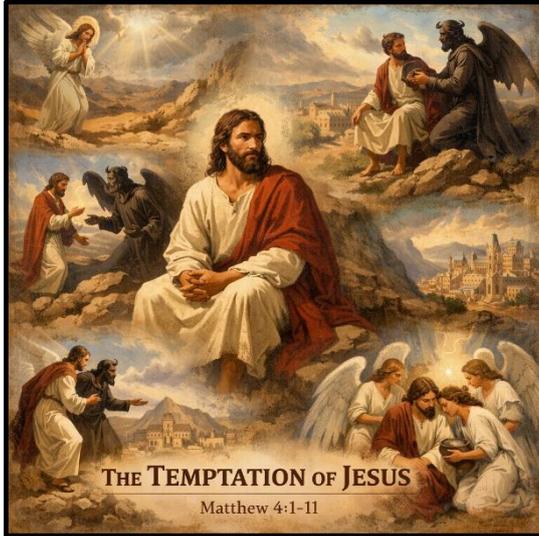
Email: ongar@brcdt.org

Tel: 01277 362645

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A) SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2026



Response to Psalm:
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation:
**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.
One does not live by bread alone, but by every
word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

Communion Antiphon:
**One does not live by bread alone, but by every
word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

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, Stations of the Cross will be available on Friday 20th February at 7.00pm and Sunday 1st March at 3.30pm.

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.

Dona Digital Collection Plate (rear of St Helen's church) :

We now have new contactless 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.

Lenten Lunches

This year our Parish Lenten Lunches at St Margarets will be held on Saturday 21st February, Saturday 28th February and Saturday 7th March at 12 – 2pm. A simple lunch of homemade soup, french bread and cheese for £7 – this year's charities are the Smile train and the local homeless charity. This week we will have enough soup but would appreciate some more soup donations at the time for the following two Saturdays. Please speak to Bernie Wrobel or Jane Gay after Mass.

Second Collection – Lourdes Fund Appeal: Thank you to all those who supported the Second Collection for the Lourdes Fund last weekend which raised a total of £210.20.

Mass Times and Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

SAT 21 FEB	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	Special Intentions (Bernie & Stan Wrobel)
SUN 22 FEB	St H 8.45am	Sara Girling RIP (Ann Jackson)
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish
MON 23 FEB	St H 9.00am	<i>No Weekday Parish Mass</i>
TUE 24 FEB	St H 9.00am	Pauline Ellerby sick (Pat Scott)
WED 25 FEB	St H 9.00am	Charlotte Donnelly RIP recently deceased (Pat Scott)
THU 26 FEB	St H 9.00am	Communion Service
FRI 27 FEB	St H 9.00am*	Holy Souls

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

SAT 28 FEB	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	Alice Drew RIP (Sue & John Fahey)
SUN 1 MAR	St H 8.45am	People of the Parish
	St M 10.30am	Paul Byrne Int. (Carol Terry)
	St M 3.30pm	Stations of the Cross



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**

Mothers Prayers Group Prior to Covid we had a thriving Mothers Prayers Group that met once a month in St Helen's. Mothers Prayers of the Solace Community was founded in 1995 and has since spread worldwide under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Their mission is to enable groups of women to pray for their children and grandchildren and all children of the world. These gatherings are open to women from all denominations. We have seen many answers to prayers and the spiritual consolations of hope and true peace for many mothers. I would like to resurrect the group if anyone is interested. The group is monthly and lasts for about an hour and is held at the presbytery. Each group follows the format of prayer laid down in the Mothers Prayers booklet. If you would like to join or would like to find out more about the vision and mission of Mothers Prayers, please do not hesitate to contact me, Lesley Denton, on: 07981964892.

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!

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.

Easter Lily Memorials at St Margaret's and St Helen's

This year we are introducing a new idea as part of our Easter celebrations. We will be decorating our churches with Easter Lilies for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

If you would like to sponsor a lily stem in memory of a loved one.

✿ Cost: £2 per lily stem

👉 The name of your loved one will then be displayed on a list in both churches, St Margaret's and St Helen's. Please complete the form below and return it to the Presbytery — ideally before the Fourth Week of Lent — or place it in the weekly Offertory collection in an envelope.

Easter Lily Memorial Form

I would like to sponsor _____ Easter Lily stem(s)

at £2 per stem.

In memory of:

Requested by:

Contact details (optional):

Total enclosed: £ _____

Thank you for helping us make our churches especially beautiful as we celebrate the joy of Easter and the hope of the Resurrection.

God bless,
Fr Frank

Parish Finance Update

The Parish finance committee recently met to review the Parish finances as part of our responsibility to advise the clergy on financial matters for the Parish. For the first nine months of this financial year there is a modest trend of increased average mass attendance which has helped to improve our income a little. This is thanks to the generosity of Parishioners in our gift aid scheme and via regular donations. Donations and the gift aid scheme remain our largest single source of income with the tax refund received. The hall hire at Doddinghurst contributed to Parish funds net of costs and the successful Parish quiz raised £823 with further contributions from the 100 club.

Good cost control also helped, although low cost loans from the Diocese given the challenges of recent years remain in excess of our financial ability to repay and the Parish remains in financial deficit. Maintenance costs have been low in the period, while we await the outcome of a surveyor to determine the priority of work needed. Spend related to essential tree works (£558) and boiler repairs (£420), both at St Margaret's. Thank you from all of the members of the Parish finance committee, for your continued support and generosity to help our Parish and please do consider your gift aid contribution. A full end of year financial summary will be published in early Summer.

Your Parish Finance Committee.

In loving Memory of
FR EMILE NKUMU

25 November 1958 - 02 November 2025



Memorial Service

7th March 2026

Mass Service : 2PM - 3PM

Reception : 3PM - 7PM

Address: Parkside community centre, 176
Goodmayes Ln, Ilford IG3 9PP

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>

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. **Donate online at cafod.org.uk today and your donation to CAFOD will be doubled so your gift can have double the impact – helping more families like Rejoice's in South Sudan and in other countries grow enough to eat. A group of generous CAFOD supporters are matching donations. Collect a CAFOD envelope and click on the QR code to donate on CAFOD's website at cafod.org.uk/envelope before you go home today or when you get home. or donate online or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.**

Series of Four Lent 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

SVP and CAFOD Work Experience The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21st – 26th June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. [Apply here](#) Applications close on the 6th April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk

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.

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. All are welcome to the 2026 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Sunday 7th March, 1–5pm, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Wanstead (E11 2PR). Come and discover how our Catholic community is responding to homelessness, the cost of living crisis, refugees and climate change. Share and connect with parishioners and charities from across Essex and East London. Free to attend and register: 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.

Mass Attendance: Feb 5.30pm: 17 Sun 8.45am: 31 10.30am: 39 Total: 97

Offertory/Cheque Collections: £253.91

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.**

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 Fr Frank to activate it if required.