



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

The Catholic Parish of Ongar and Doddington

Email: ongar@brcdt.org

Tel: 01277 362645

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddington Road
Doddington
CM15 0QJ



**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2026**



Response to Psalm:
Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, Alleluia.
**I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the
kingdom to little children.**
Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:
**They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.**

Above Image: Spirit with Seven-fold Gifts - Stained glass in St. Mary's Iffley, Oxford, Great Britain

Source: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55828>

Artist: Unidentified, may have been made by Hardman and Co, mid 19th century

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

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Frank Westcott

Please Note: There will be an extra Mass for Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm at St Margaret's on Wednesday 18th February. This week, Stations of the Cross will be available on Friday 20th February at 7.00pm.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION - LOURDES FUND APPEAL: This Sunday, which follows the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is the World Day for the Sick. Each summer a large group of pilgrims from our diocese visits the place where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette. The collection that is taken up throughout our diocese today 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. As well as the retiring collection at Mass, you can give online at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations> (specify 'Lourdes Fund' in the 'Other' box). Thank you for your support.

Mass Times and Intentions

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)
MON 16 FEB	St H 9.00am	No Weekday Parish Mass
TUE 17 FEB	St H 9.00am	Pat Foster RIP (Mary Bergin)
WED 18 FEB	St H 9.00am	ASH WEDNESDAY
	St M 7.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY
THU 19 FEB	St H 9.00am	Mick & Donald (Slawik)
FRI 20 FEB	St H 9.00am*	
	St M 7.00pm	Stations of the Cross

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



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**

LENTEN LUNCHESES 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 Doddinghurst 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.

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.

Brentwood Foodbank sent St Margaret's a lovely letter with their "sincere thanks and gratitude for your incredible support during 2025. During 2025 your donations weighed an incredible 76.25kg. We feel humbled and blessed to be having chosen as a charity you supported last year and we look forward to working with you in 2026." The letter will be put up on the St Margaret's notice board if anyone wishes to view it. Thanks to all those who supported.

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!

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

All Saints Church, Doddinghurst

Reverend Ann Coleman vicar of All Saints Doddinghurst is retiring. She is having her final service on Sunday 15th February at 10am. She has worked tirelessly for the parish and the people of Doddinghurst. Please remember her in your prayers.

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. Collect a CAFOD envelope or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

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

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.

Stop assisted suicide - further action needed!

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. ***Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.***

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/

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.

Mass Attendance: Feb 5.30pm: 22 Sun 8.45am: 42 10.30am: 50 Total: 114

Offertory/Cheque Collections: £273.03

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.