



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

The Catholic Parish of Ongar and Doddinghurst

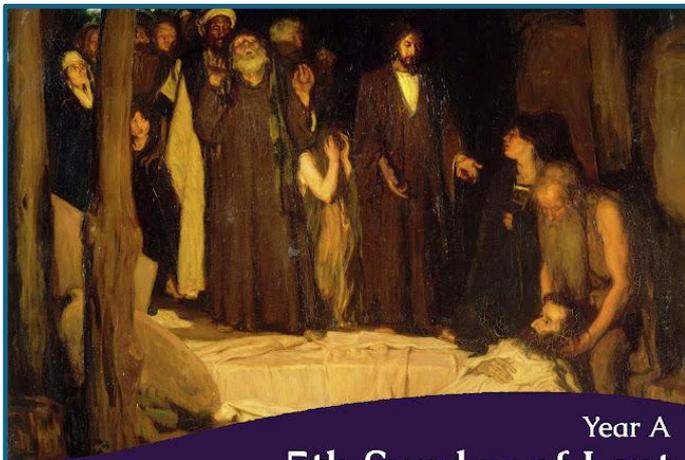
Email: ongar@brcdt.org

Tel: 01277 362645

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) SUNDAY 22ND MARCH, 2026



Year A

5th Sunday of Lent

Response to Psalm:
**With the Lord there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.**

Gospel Acclamation:
**Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord/
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**

Communion Antiphon:
**Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.**

Our parish newsletter can also be found online at catholicparishongar.org to access newsletter links.

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Frank Westcott

Please Note: This week, Stations of the Cross will be available 3.30pm Sunday 22nd March at St Margaret's, 7pm Friday 27th March at St Margaret's and at 9am Friday Mass at St Helen's during Lent.

HOLY WEEK Next Sunday will be Palm Sunday which marks the beginning of Holy Week. Palms will be distributed at all Masses.

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 or 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 until end of March and they are aware of the current weekly parish usage of the Presbytery.

Baptism Please pray for Elsie Brooks who will be baptised this weekend and welcomed into our parish community.

Whatsapp Group: If anyone would like to join the parish Whatsapp Group, which is available for the whole parish to use and to help keep everyone up to date with current issues and events, please contact the administrator, Denise Terry-Roberts, at d.terryroberts@btinternet.com or on 07545 240064 for her to add your mobile number.

Missio - Message from Father Anthony.

" Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. Please send me your prayer intentions, which will be brought to the Lord during Mass in our Missio chapel, by emailing me at director@missio.org.uk Together let us be bridges of hope and healing in our beautiful, yet divided world.

Fr. Anthony Chantry

[CLICK HERE to read Fr Anthony's complete blog](#)

[You can also read the digital version of Mission Today by CLICKING HERE](#)

Mass Times and Intentions

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

SAT 21 MAR	St H 1.00pm	Baptism Elsie Brooks
	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	Meeda Mary Kearney RIP 17th Anniv. (Helen Goodwin)
SUN 22 MAR	St H 8.45am	People of the Parish
	St M 10.30am	Rev. Ann Coleman on her retirement (Parishioners of St Margaret)
	St M 3.30pm	Stations of the Cross
MON 23 MAR	St H 9.00am	<i>No Weekday Parish Mass</i>
TUE 24 MAR	St H 9.00am	Julia Ann Murphy RIP recently deceased (Bridie Bolger)
WED 25 MAR	St H 9.00am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Mary Dowling Int. (Sue & John Fahey)
THU 26 MAR	St H 9.00am	Larissa Silver Int. (Sue & John Fahey)
FRI 27 MAR	St H 9.00am*	Holy Mass People of the Parish
	St M 7.00pm	Stations of the Cross

PALM SUNDAY (A)

SAT 28 MAR	St H 4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	St H 5.30pm	Dave Speller RIP (Kathy Speller)
SUN 29 MAR	St H 8.45am	Peggy & Nick Hayes RIP (Lillie & Marvin)
	St M 10.30am	John Scott RIP (Pat Scott)



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.

***EUCHARISTIC ADORATION / HOLY HOUR following 9.00am Mass at St Helen's on Fridays unless a funeral**

Mothers Prayers Group The Mothers' Prayers Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Presbytery. Everyone welcome. Please call Lesley Denton 07981964892 for more information.

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 EASTER & ST PATRICK'S DAY CARDS in stock and also cards & 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, the Dona device (Select Repository) 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 deceased loved one.

✿ Cost: £2 per lily stem

🔔 The name of your deceased 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

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>

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo Led by Bishop Alan Williams

Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026. 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price of ?799.00 per person Package includes: Return flight from Lon Stansted – 10kg check in bag. 4 nights Dinner, B&B in Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative. Single room supplement ?250.00. Maximum 3. Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

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 Applications are now closed, however we have had some applicants drop out so if you know of a young person in Year 10 or above who may still be interested, please do get in touch.

World Youth Day 2027 (Seoul, South Korea) We have an initial group preparing to attend. There is still time to nominate a young person (aged 19+ by August 2027). Further details are available on our website.

Youth Mass There will be **no Youth Mass in April** due to this falling on Maundy Thursday, so we are encouraging young people to attend their own parish Masses. The next Youth Mass will take place on Thursday 7th May, which you are very welcome to attend. Please do just send us a quick message if you are planning to bring a group, to assist with catering arrangements.

Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage – Saturday 23rd May Representatives from the BCYS will be joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and we would like to invite other young people to join and assist with the liturgy. Please contact us if interested.

Flame 2027 – Saturday 6th March, OVO Wembley Arena Almost 1,000 young people from the Diocese are already registered. A limited number of early bird tickets (£30) remain available. To book, please complete the form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/KTevSZwGQH>

Walsingham House Team Applications Applications are now open for those finishing Year 13 or university who are interested in a year of volunteering at Walsingham House. For further information, please email clairebailey@brcdt.org.

40 hours Devotion 40 hours of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration during Lent (night and day except during Mass) will take place on the weekend of 21-22 March at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall, Ilford IG5 0HE, starting with Mass of Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 7am on the Saturday and ending with Benediction at 11pm on the Sunday. All are very welcome to take part in this very special devotion.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS AT THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER, BILLERICAY



Starting on Wednesday, 15th April, there will be an opportunity to encounter the Holy Spirit and share your faith together at a series of seminars running every Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9.15pm in the Canon Roche Pastoral Centre at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay, Essex. (Postcode: CM12 9LL) Speakers include Michelle Moran, Father Paschal Uche and Reverend Wayne Dulson as well as video input from “The Gift”. While the Seminars are mainly intended for practicing Christians, they are open to all people from every walk of life, including those who currently have no involvement with the Church. If you would like to take part in this please follow the link to register:

<https://mostholyredeemerchurch.churchsuite.com/events/6ehdypgb> Alternatively, you can use the QR code.

Diocesan School Vacancies *Click on vacancy to take you to the advert*

[Deputy Headteacher – Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 noon Friday 20th March 2026

[Deputy Headteacher – St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Tilbury](#)

Deadline for application: 12:00 noon Friday 10th April 2026

Campion School Open Evening The Campion School would like to warmly invite parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on Thursday, 25th June from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. The Headteacher's talk will be at 4.30 pm and repeated at 6.30 pm. Please visit our school website for more details www.thecampionschool.org.uk

Brentwood Cathedral Lenten Concert Please make a note in your diaries of this very special Lenten Concert to be given by the Choirs of Pembroke College Cambridge on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm in the Cathedral. We are extremely fortunate to welcome this outstanding Choral Concert here. The Programme as you will see is hugely impressive, including the famous Allegri Miserere, Mendelssohn’s Hear My Prayer (including O for the Wings of a Dove) and of course the wonderful Finzi Marsh and Bernstein pieces. Do please if you can spread the word, not least amongst any singers of our local choirs as it will be very attractive to them. There will be a fifteen minute interval with the Concert finishing at 9pm.

Mass for Migrants - You are warmly invited to join the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark, and Westminster for the 20th annual Mass for Migrants on Bank Holiday Monday, 4 May 2026, at St Antony of Padua Catholic Church. The celebration will begin at 12.00 pm with a procession of banners. This year, the Mass is hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood. Celebrated for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the Mass is prepared by the Caritas and Ethnic Chaplaincies of the three dioceses and gives thanks for the contributions made to faith, life and work in the UK by all those who have come from other countries to make their home here. **The preacher will be Archbishop Richard Moth, and the celebrant will be Bishop Alan Williams, sm.**

Mass Attendance: Feb 5.30pm: 24 Sun 8.45am: 45 10.30am: 33 Total: 109

Offertory/Cheque Collections: £ 272.12

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 Peter Gaston on 07949654401

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.