



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY 26TH APRIL, 2026

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



Response to Psalm:
**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.
I know my sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:
The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

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

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, Epping 01992572516 or any nearby parish..

RCIA – “The Church”

Our RCIA sessions will continue on Tuesday 28th April at 12:30pm. The topic for this week will be “The Church.” If you are curious to learn more about the Catholic faith, you are warmly invited to join us. All are welcome, whether you are exploring for the first time or simply wish to deepen your understanding.

Mothers Prayers Group The Mothers’ Prayers Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Presbytery. The next one will be Wednesday 29th April. Everyone welcome. Please call Lesley Denton 07981964892 for more information.

CAFOD Thank you to all parishioners for your generous response to the CAFOD Sudan Appeal, announced last weekend by Jim and Bernie. Together, we raised £265 to support those in need.

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.

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.

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

We now have new contactless facilities available for Offertory, the Repository or general donations and special collections. The instructions are mostly self-explanatory; however, if you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mass Times and Intentions

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SAT 25 APR	St H 5.30pm	Peggy Maxwell Birthday Int (SVP Ongar & Doddinghurst)
SUN 26 APR	St H 8.45am	Elizabeth Tobin RIP (Patrick & Ursula Murphy)
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish
MON 27 APR	No Mass Service	No Weekday Parish Mass
TUE 28 APR	St H 9.00am	Bethany Luetchford Get Well Int. (Lillie & Marvin)
WED 29 APR	St H 9.00am	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, V, D
THU 30 APR	St H 9.00am	Holy Souls
*FRI 1 MAY	St H 9.00am	Holy Souls

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

SAT 2 MAY	St H 5.30pm	Dr. Ken Menon Thanksgiving Mass Int.
SUN 3 MAY	St H 8.45am	Residents of Dudbrook Hall and Howard Lodge Int.
	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/ ROSARY following 9.00am Mass at St Helen's on Fridays.**

Happy Birthday to the 100 club

Our 100 club has now been going for 5 years. It is classed as a private lottery and is open to all St Helen's and St Margaret's Parishioners over the age of 16 years. By joining the 100 Club you will be giving much needed support to the Parish whilst having a chance to win a cash prize every month.

Tickets are £2 each per draw with a minimum annual subscription of £24. Each draw will take place on the last Sunday of the month after one of the morning Masses. Each ticket will bear a unique number. The more tickets sold the higher the prize money. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy. You can pay by standing order, cheque, bank transfer, or cash. Application forms are available in each church or can be downloaded from our website.

To date the 100 club has contributed £5498 to Parish funds. Thank you to all who participate.

Anne Robertson & Bernie Wrobel (100 club facilitators)

Missio Red Box 2025 – Thank you!

'There are numerous Catholic Communities and Missionaries across the world who depend on our support, through sharing, prayer and giving. We will not let them down, thanks to YOU.'

These words for our parish family are from Father Anthony Chantry, Missio National Director. He also informs us that in 2025, people in England and Wales gave over £2 million through the Red Box – both donations in the boxes and by people giving via Direct Debits, cheques and online. In the Diocese of Brentwood, over £70,000 was raised.

A huge Thank You on behalf of Father Anthony to our Parish of St Helen and St Margaret of Scotland. We raised £964.00 in 2025 through the Red Boxes, including individuals giving directly.

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.

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage

A small number of last-minute places are now available for the BCYS Youth Service Pilgrimage to Lourdes, open to young people currently in Year 10 and above. There are a number of funding opportunities available. Find out more and apply at: www.bcys.net/events/sl26

World Youth Day 2027 (Seoul, South Korea)

Be part of something extraordinary at World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to join hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from around the world, gathered with Pope Leo for this global celebration of faith. Open to those currently in Year 13 and above. Details and applications: www.bcys.net/events/wyd27

BCYS Youth Mass

The next Youth Masses will take place at Brentwood Cathedral on Thursday 7th May, 4th June and 2nd July. It is open to any young people from around the Diocese to enjoy pizza, prayer, workshops and celebrate Mass together! For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

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>

St John Bosco Children's Camp, summer 2026. Applications are now open for children currently in school year 5 – 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August. Activities include archery, fishing, AquaPark visit, football, kayaking and much more. The camp is especially for children who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but full bursaries are available. All application details are at <https://boscocamp.co.uk>. Places are likely to go quickly – early applications are encouraged.

Campion School Open Evening 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

REPOSITORY: We have cards & gifts in stock for Easter, 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.

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.**

CARITAS Join us for our Caritas Conversations

This is a set of online meetings where we come together to reflect on how the ministry of charity is lived out across Essex and East London. **They are open to all and free.** Whether you are a parishioner, member of clergy, school staff member, catechist, young adult or those actively engaged in social justice, these conversations offer a space to connect, share good practice and learn from one another.

29 th April 2026	18:30 - 19:30	Refugees & Migrants	Online
6 th May 2026	18:30 - 19:30	Environment	Online
13 th May 2026	18:30 - 19:30	Homelessness & Cost of Living	Online

[Click here to register your attendance for one or all of the above](#)

We look forward to seeing many of you online over the coming weeks,
Michael

St. Francis of Assisi Pilgrimage 2026 The 800th Death Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi Jubilee Year 2026 is inviting us to visit the Holy Franciscan Shrines and obtain plenary indulgence. The parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Tilbury and Our Lady and St. Joseph, Stanford-le-Hope are organising a pilgrimage to Italy visiting Assisi and the Rieti Valley. The date is Monday 7th – Friday 11th September 2026 (5 days). Hotel accommodation: 3* Superior with daily breakfast and dinner (lunch not included). Cost of Pilgrimage: Adults and children over 9 years: £695 per person (based on twin sharing) and single room supplement of £100. To book your place, email: Fr. Anthony at tilbury@bcdt.org before the end of April to avoid escalating price of flights. To secure your place, a Deposit Cheque of £250 per Pilgrim should be made payable to Our Lady Star of the Sea or a Bank Transfer: HSBC Bank, Sort Code: 40-13-22, A/c No. 81018922 as soon as possible. Please ask Parish Office if you would like a copy of itinerary.

THE LEGACY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

As we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis (3rd October 1226), Fr Alban McCoy OFM Con will speak about how Francis changed the Church of his day, and can help us to renew the Church in our own times. The event will take place in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) from 11 am until 1 pm on Saturday 2nd May. Refreshments available from 10.30. Everyone is welcome to this free event, which is also available by live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org No booking necessary.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

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@bcdt.org or 01277 362645

Mass Attendance: Apr 18/19 5.30pm: 30 Sun 8.45am: 36 10.30am: 35 Total: 101

Easter Offertory/Cheque Collections: £248.76

Please make cheques payable to: ‘Catholic Church Ongar St Helens’

For electronic payments please email ongar@bcdt.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.