



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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2026

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



Sunday Mass Responses

Response to Psalm:

You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:

**I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will not hunger
and whoever believes in me will not thirst.**

Our parish newsletter can also be found online at catholicparishongar.org where you can 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 next session will be on **Tuesday 4th August, 12.30pm** and will be covering the subject 'Catholic Devotions' on page 49. 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. Everyone welcome. Please call Lesley Denton 07981964892 for more information.

Diamond Wedding Celebration

We would like to thank Father Frank for the wonderful Holy Celebration of the Mass last Sunday. It was a really devout Mass and we were extremely moved by it. Our thanks also to all the parishioners who contributed to the party afterwards, with all the wine, cake, flowers, and even matching diamond napkins and plates! A truly memorable day with lots of cards.

Thank you, everyone.

Ann & Graham

Day by Day books

There are a few little pocket Day by Day books left over for August which will be placed in the Repository/porch at St Helen's. They are only £1.20 each and a nice way to view the daily Mass readings. Please pop the money in the card box in the wall or you can use the contactless Dona device to purchase via the Repository fund.

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 Times and Intentions

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SAT 1 AUG	St M 5.30pm	Rose O'Connor RIP (Sue & John Fahey)
SUN 2 AUG	St H 8.45am	Josie Fanning Ints.
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish
MON 3 AUG	No Service	
TUE 4 AUG	St H 9.00am	St John Vianney (Curé of Ars), Pr
WED 5 AUG	St H 9.00am	
THU 6 AUG	St H 9.00am	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (A)
*FRI 7 AUG	St H 9.00am	Eileen Donaghy RIP (Pat Allan)

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SAT 8 AUG	St M 5.30pm	Peter Smith RIP Anniv. (Paul Falco)
SUN 9 AUG	St H 8.45am	
	St M 10.30am	
*EUCHARISTIC ADORATION / ROSARY / CONFESSION following 9.00am Mass at St Helen's on Fridays.		



The Sacrament of Individual Reconciliation is available 4.30pm - 5.15pm Saturday at St Helen's and 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, Peggy Maxwell.

Please also pray for those whose Anniversaries occur at this time.

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.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Whatsapp Group: 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 if you'd like 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.

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 require.

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/>

Mass Attendance: 25/26 August 5.30pm 24; 08.45am 25; 10.30am 38; Total: 87
Offertory/Cheque Collections: £644.35

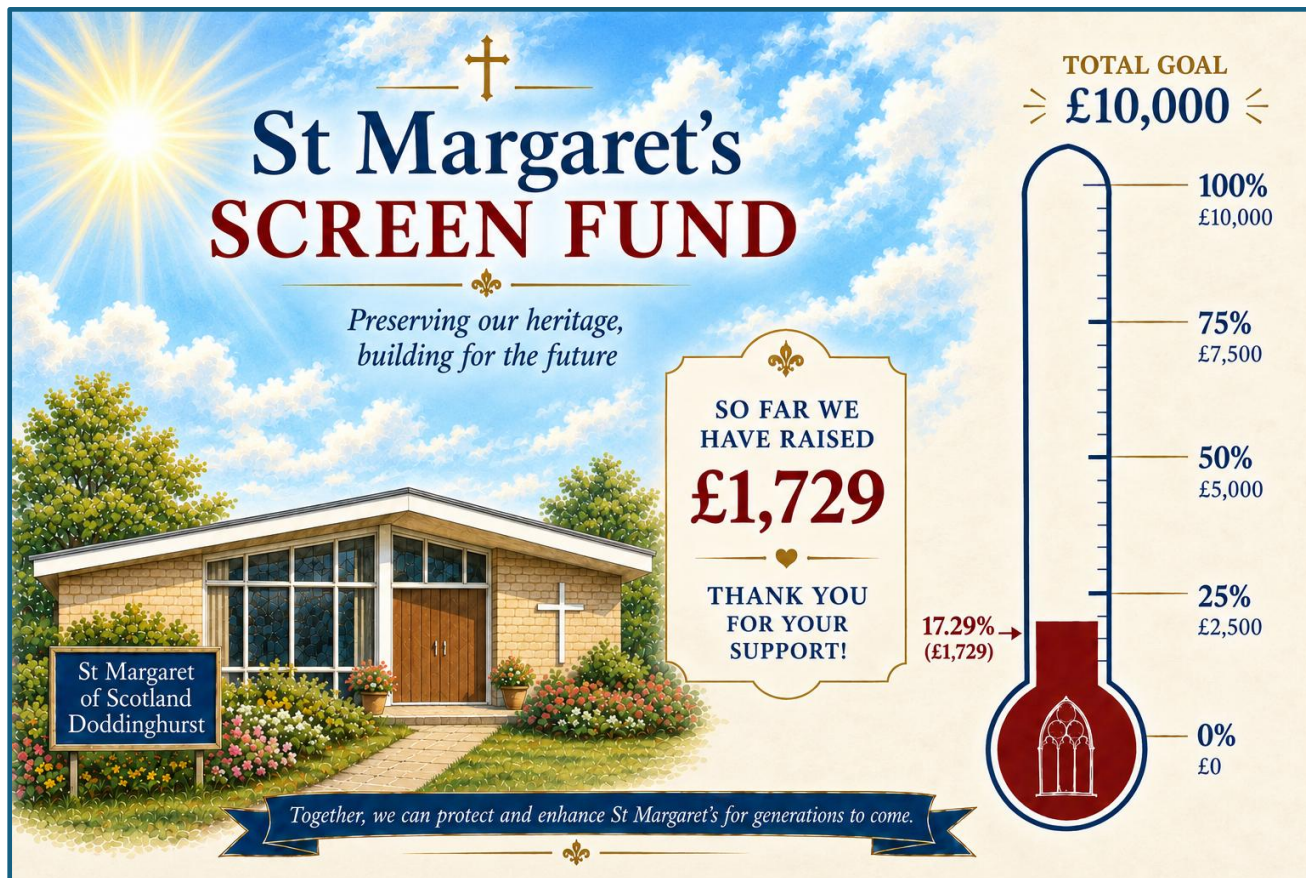
Please make cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'

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.



St Margaret's Screen Fund

A heartfelt thank you to the anonymous donor who very generously contributed £100 to St Margaret's Screen Fund this week. Your kindness and generosity have brought us another step closer to our goal.

The floor-to-ceiling screen that divides the Church area from the main hall has become badly damaged and now needs to be replaced. This screen has served the parish faithfully for over **40 years**, enabling the building to function both as a place of worship and as a vital community hall.

While Church services take place on Sundays and Feast Days, the hall is used throughout the week as a lively community hub. It regularly hosts the **St Margaret's Pre-School**, **Doddinghurst Women's Institute**, **Musical Theatre Group**, monthly social **Doddy Drop-In**, village events, exercise classes, the **Christmas Party for the housebound**, and is available for private bookings. The screen is essential for allowing all these activities to continue safely and comfortably.

To install a new screen, we need to raise **£10,000**, and so we have launched a parish and local appeal.

How You Can Help:

- Attend upcoming fund-raising events
- Make a personal donation — **every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference**

For bank transfers, please use the following details:

Account Name: Catholic Church Ongar St Helen

Account Number: 01017616 Sort Code: 40-13-22

☎ [01277 362645](tel:01277362645)

✉ ongar@brcdt.org

Cheques may be made payable to: **Catholic Church Ongar St Helen's**

There is an option now available for the Screen Fund on the Dona Contactless Device at St Helen's or, alternatively, you can use the QR code for card payments.

Your continued support and kindness are deeply appreciated, and every contribution helps us move closer to completing this much-needed project.



You're invited to sign a petition on the way out of Mass about the debt crisis affecting many of the world's poorest countries. Money is flowing out of countries that can least afford it to pay huge debts to wealthy banks and hedge funds. 34 African countries allocate more money to servicing debts than to health or education.



Countries have often paid back the debt several times over but will never clear it because of extortionate interest rates. Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla from South Sudan says, "Years of instability forced our nation to borrow in order to function. Today, so much of our national resources are diverted to servicing that debt, instead of paying for healthcare, education and building peace. When debt repayment takes priority over essential services, the poorest suffer most."



Please sign the petition at the back of church calling for the UK government to take urgent action on this crisis, as they are well placed to do. **Or sign online if you prefer by scanning this QR code – thank you.** Read more at

cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt

St Helen's Please be careful when moving the kneelers during Mass as they can be noisy at times and cause disturbance.

St Margaret's There is now a box of religious cards available at St Margaret's. These will be available when teas and coffees are served after Mass on Sundays and are all individually priced.

SVP Summer Draw SVP members now have raffle tickets available to purchase for the Summer draw at a cost of £1 per ticket. The draw is due to be made on 24th September and has a first prize of £5000. So if you'd like the chance of being a winner while raising funds for the SVP please see Ann J, Bernie, Bridget, Clara or Lauren after mass in July and August.

Doddy Drop In Everyone is very welcome to drop in for our friendly social on the second Tuesday of every month at St Margaret's Hall, Doddinghurst between 2-4pm.

BCCS invites you to join them on an exclusive, personal tour of Ingatestone Hall, conducted by the Petre family, offering unbeatable insight of the past and present of his Grade I listed building and gardens, followed by a hot drink and homemade biscuit on Thursday 03rd September, 11:00-15:30. The event was over-subscribed last year so get your tickets fast - entry is £25 per person - book online today:

[//www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/) Please note, due to the age of the building, there is no disabled access to the upper floor, and some of the lower floor and grounds are uneven and thus not suitable for those who have mobility issues.

The Priests return to the Brentwood Diocese! Fr. Eugene O'Hagan and Fr. Martin O'Hagan - formerly of the celebrated singing trio 'The Priests' - invite you to join them at a one-off charity weekend, hosted by and in support of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Choose from an elegant Gala Dinner or sophisticated Charity Luncheon, both being held at a stunning Grade II listed manor house. Enjoy fine dining and seize a rare opportunity to see Fr. Eugene and Fr. Martin perform in an intimate and exclusive setting - this is an occasion not to be missed! 09th-10th October at The Lawn, Rochford - for full details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/ or contact Julie Abbott 07912 277413

Catechist Training & Resources Day 2026, taking place on **Saturday 7th November**, from **10:00am–3:00pm** at **Brentwood Ursuline Convent School**. This free day is open to everyone involved in youth and children's ministry across the Diocese of Brentwood. It is an opportunity to refresh your own faith, discover new ideas and resources, and connect with others who share your passion for helping young people encounter Christ. During the day you can look forward to inspiring talks and updates from the BCYS and Walsingham House, a choice of practical workshops designed to support your ministry, opportunities to share ideas and experiences with fellow catechists and time for prayer, encouragement and fellowship. Tea, coffee and refreshments throughout the day (please bring a packed lunch). We would also love to welcome **young leaders aged 16+** who are already serving in their parish, or who are interested in becoming catechists or youth leaders in the future. The event is **completely free**, but if you are able to make a small donation towards our running costs, it is always gratefully received. To reserve your place, please complete the form on our webpage at <https://bcys.net/events/catechists2026/>