



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

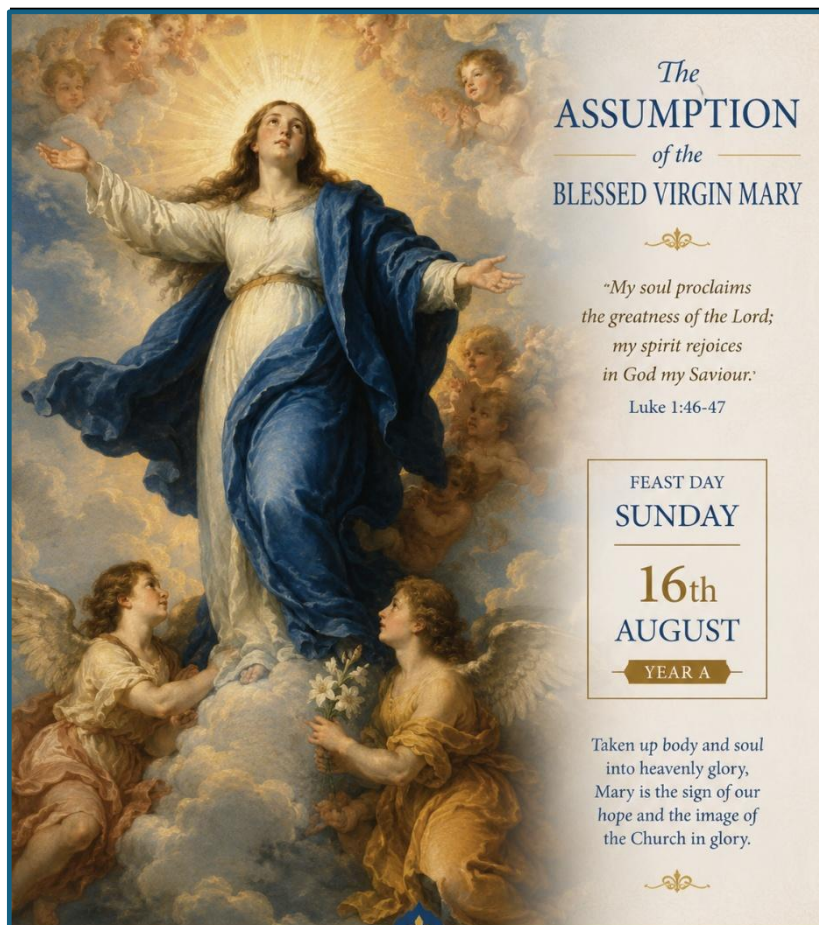
The Catholic Parish of Ongar and Doddinghurst

Email: ongar@brcdt.org

Tel: 01277 362645

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST, 2026

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



HOLY MARY, ASSUMED INTO HEAVEN,
PRAY FOR US.

Sunday Mass Responses

Response to Psalm:

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

**Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom
and healed every affliction among the people.**

Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:

**I am the living bread that came down from
heaven, says the Lord.**

Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

**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 18th August, 12.30pm** and will be covering the subject 'Moral Action'. 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.

Please pray for Anastasia Morris, who had a fall recently and is recovering in Queen's hospital.

First Holy Communion Programme 2026–2027

We are currently assessing the level of interest from parents wishing to enrol their children on our next First Holy Communion Programme, due to begin this autumn.

The programme is intended for Catholic children who are currently in Year 3 or Year 4 (usually 7-9 years of age) and who regularly attend Mass with their families.

If you think your child may be joining the programme, please complete one of the forms available at both St Helen's and St Margaret's, and return it to the Presbytery.

At this stage, this is simply to help us estimate the number of children who may wish to take part and to assist with any future planning. Further details will be announced in due course.

Mass Times and Intentions

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (A)

Solemnity

SAT 15 AUG	St M 5.30pm	Maggie Nolan RIP Anniv. (from Mum & Dad)
SUN 16 AUG	St H 8.45am	Meeda Kearney Rip Anniv. (Helen Goodwin)
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish
MON 17 AUG	No Service	
TUE 18 AUG	St H 9.00am	St Helen, Widow John Scott RIP (Pat Scott)
WED 19 AUG	St H 9.00am	Fr Andrew Hurley RIP Anniv. 2014 Communion Service
THU 20 AUG	St H 9.00am	St Bernard, Ab, D Kathleen Lillis RIP recently deceased aged 97 (Pat Scott)
*FRI 21 AUG	St H 9.00am	St Pius X, P Charlotte Donnelly RIP (Pat Scott)

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SAT 22 AUG	St M 5.30pm	Dr Ken Menon Ints.
SUN 23 AUG	St H 8.45am	Teresa Masterson RIP recently deceased (Kathleen Fahey & Family)
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish

***EUCCHARISTIC 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, 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, Peggy Maxwell, Anastasia Morris.

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.

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.

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: 8/9 August 5.30pm 30; 08.45am 31; 10.30am 29; Total: 90

Offertory/Cheque Collections: £263.59

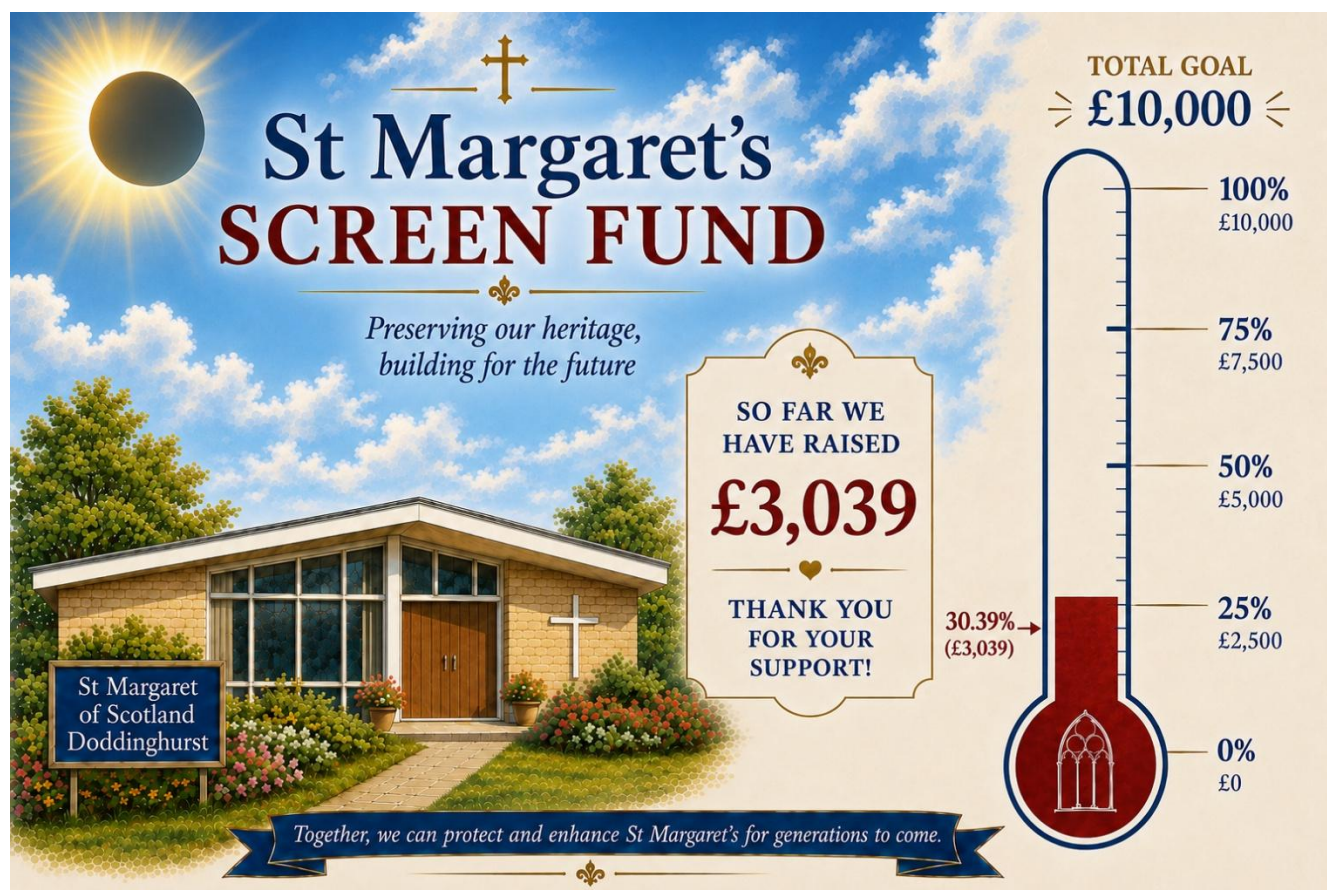
Please make cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'

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.



A heartfelt **thank you** to our anonymous donors for the exceptionally generous gifts of **£1,000** and **£210** to **St Margaret's Screen Fund** this week. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

And thank you to **everyone who has contributed**, whether large or small. The support we've received from across the parish has been wonderful, and we're very grateful to you all.

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**



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.

Please note that you can Gift Aid your donation using one of the yellow general envelopes available at both churches or there is an option available on the Dona machine in the Altar Screen Fund. Please mark Screen Fund on your envelopes if using. You only need to enter GA info once per bank card used.

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

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/>

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.

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/>

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