



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



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST, 2026



Sunday Mass Responses

Response to Psalm:

**Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us
your salvation**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

**I long for you, O Lord,
my soul longs for his word.**

Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:

**The bread that I will give, says the Lord,
is my flesh for the life of the world.**

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.

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

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	Orhan Hassan Ints.
	St M 10.30am	People of the Parish
MON 10 AUG	No Service	
TUE 11 AUG	St H 9.00am	St Clare, V Communion Service
WED 12 AUG	St H 9.00am	Holy Souls
THU 13 AUG	St H 9.00am	
*FRI 14 AUG	St H 9.00am	St Maximilian Kolbe, Pr M

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

***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, 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.

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 required.

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: 01/02 August 5.30pm 26; 08.45am 30; 10.30am 39; Total: 95
Offertory/Cheque Collections: £277.57

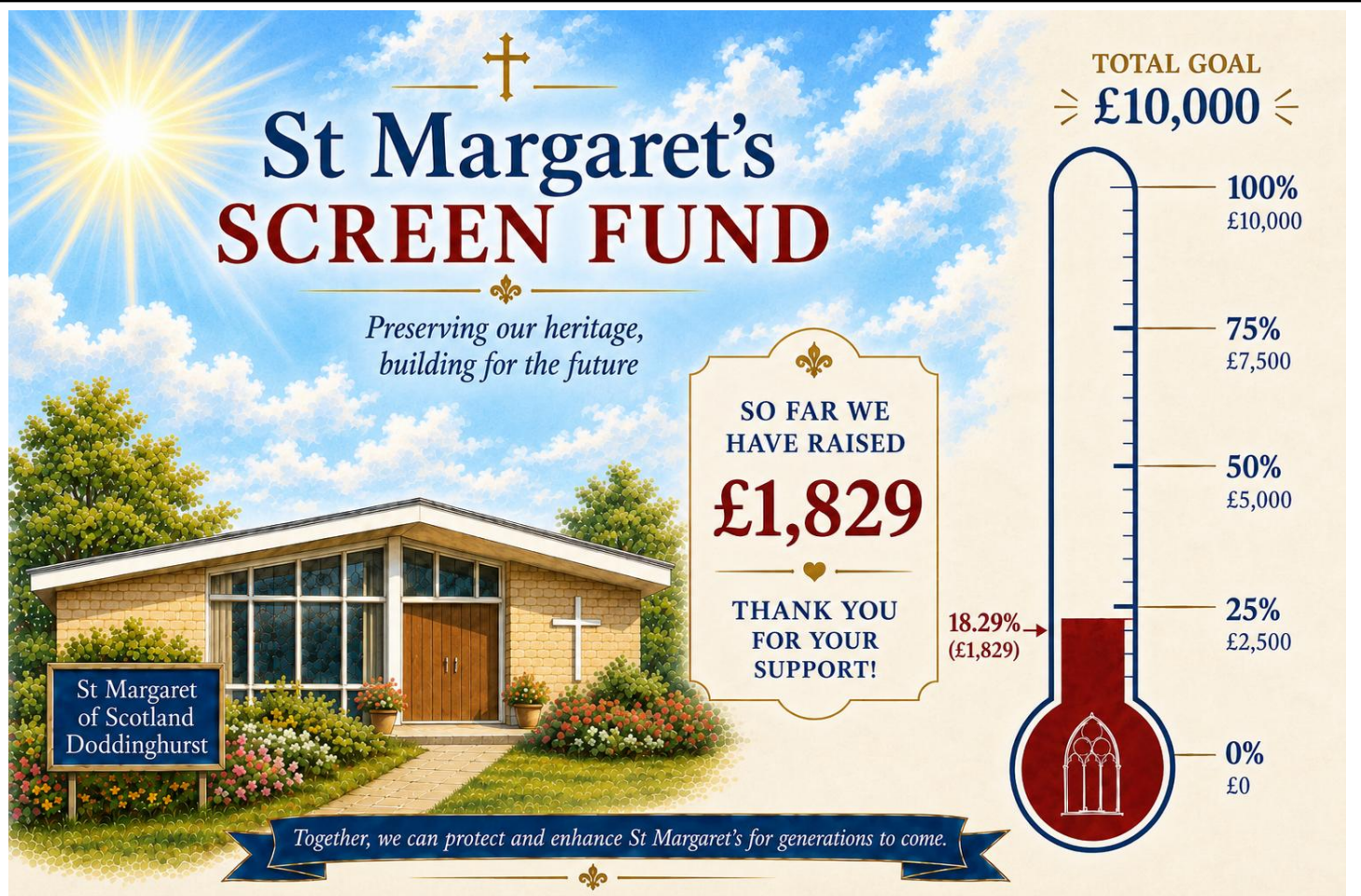
Please make cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'

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.



Well done, everyone! Thanks to your continued generosity, our Screen Fund has now reached £1,829, bringing us to 18.29% of our £10,000 target. We're making excellent progress and are steadily approaching our first major milestone of 25%.

A special word of thanks goes to our anonymous donor for their very generous gift of £100 this week, and to everyone who has contributed so far. Every donation, large or small, is helping to preserve and enhance St Margaret's for future generations.

Thank you for your wonderful support. Let's keep the momentum going!

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.

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



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.

Day by Day books

There are a few little pocket Day by Day books left over for August / September 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.

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/>

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: <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.

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