



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

The Catholic Parish of Ongar and Doddinghurst

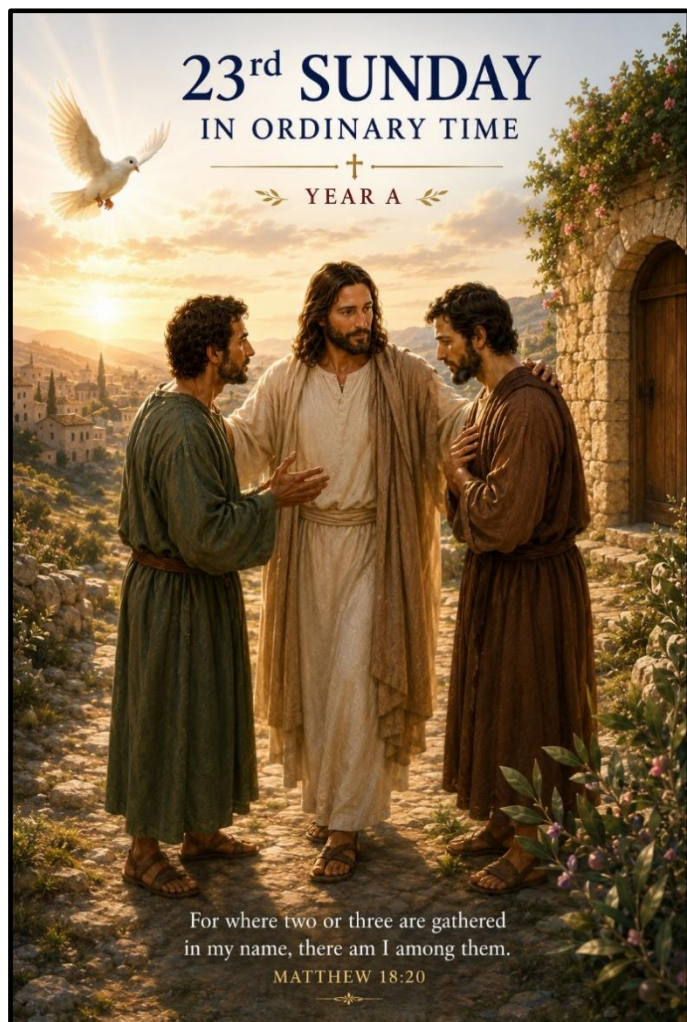
Email: ongar@brcdt.org

Tel: 01277 362645

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2026



Sunday Mass Responses

Response to Psalm:

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

**God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
Alleluia.**

Communion Antiphon:

**Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.**

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 Please note that there will be no RCIA meeting this coming week. We will continue on Tuesday 15th September 12.30pm as usual, thank you. 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.

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



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SAT 5 SEP	St M 5.30pm	John Kaganda RIP (Agnes)
SUN 6 SEP	St H 8.45am	Teresa Masterson RIP recently deceased (Kathleen Fahey & Family)
	St M 10.30am	Brian Arnell RIP, Lesley Boyall RIP and Fr Andrew Hurley RIP (The Arnell Family)
MON 7 SEP	No Service	
TUE 8 SEP	St H 9.00am	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Detta Mustafa RIP
WED 9 SEP	St H 9.00am	People of the Parish
THU 10 SEP	St H 10.30am	Funeral William Cullinen RIP followed by Committal at Bentley Crematorium
*FRI 11 SEP	St H 9.00am	Yvonne Maria Westcott RIP Anniv. 05/09

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Education Sunday)

SAT 12 SEP	St M 5.30pm	People of the Parish
SUN 13 SEP	St H 8.45am	Lally & Frank Falco RIP (Paul Falco)
	St M 10.30am	Jacqui Scarborough RIP (Corinne Adams)

***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, 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, Anastasia Morris, Betty Helliard.

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: 30/31 August 5.30pm 22; 08.45am 29; 10.30am 31; Total: 82

Offertory/Cheque Collections: £749.71

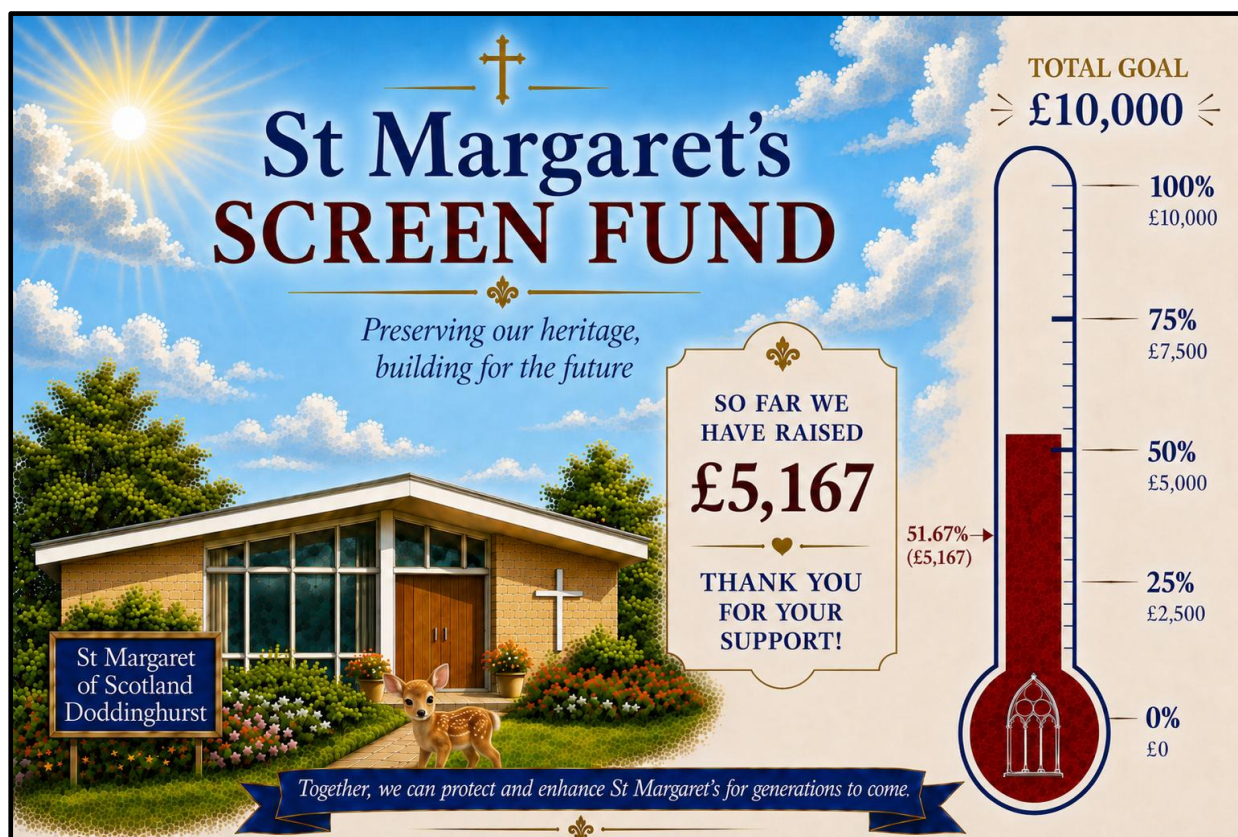
Please make cheques payable to: 'Catholic Church Ongar St Helens'

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.



We've Passed the Halfway Mark!

Our appeal has now passed 50% of its target. This is a wonderful milestone, and one that has only been possible through the generosity and support of so many parishioners. This week a special thanks go to an anonymous donor of £1000 and also to Mila, who raised an impressive £208 from the sale of her lovely plants and preserves. A sincere thank you and congratulations to everyone who has contributed and supported the appeal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. May God bless you all abundantly for your generosity.

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 church. Please mark Screen Fund and Gift Aid number on your envelopes if using. There is also an option available on the Dona machine in the Altar Screen Fund. You only need to enter GA info once per bank card used. Those that are members of the Gift Aid Scheme will be identified in the usual way.

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

Harvest Festival – Saturday 19th/Sunday 20 September

As we do every year, we warmly invite parishioners to bring donations at the time of Harvest Festival for the **Brentwood Foodbank**, which is facing sharply increased need that is outstripping their food donations.

Drop-off times:

- **Sat 19 Sept** 5.30pm Mass – St Helen's
- **Sun 20 Sept** 8.45am Mass at St Helen's
10.30am Mass at St Margaret's

The items will be taken to St Margaret's, then delivered after Mass

Requested items (new and in-date): Packets, tins, toiletries, baby essentials, rice, pasta sauces, cereal, coffee, microwavable rice sachets, squash, shaving foam/gel, tinned ham/corned beef, washing powder, women's deodorant.

Please place items in a **carrier bag**, if possible, to help with transport and sorting.

Thank you for your generosity and support for those in need within our wider community.

<https://brentwood.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/donate-food>



Diocesan Second Collection please note that on weekend Masses for Sunday 13th September, there will be a collection for the Catholic Education Service as part of Education Sunday.



Foundation Governors in Catholic Schools 13th September marks Education Sunday, a time when we celebrate and pray for the brilliant work of our Catholic schools. These schools rely heavily on good governance, and on this special day we are asking if you, or anyone you know, may be able to support our schools by becoming a foundation governor. There are leaflets at the back of the church and/or you can scan this QR code for more information. Please contact sandramoss@brcdt.org if you would like to have a conversation about becoming a school governor.

SVP national raffle A very big thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the National raffle recently as ticket sales amounted to £185.00. Here's hoping that luck matches generosity when the draw is made on 24th September!

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.

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.

Youth Mass – First Thursday of Each Month - Brentwood Cathedral: Young people, youth groups, Confirmation groups and school groups are invited to join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service for monthly Youth Mass, with food, prayer and different activities each month before celebrating Mass together. Join at 6pm in the Parish Hall, followed by Youth Mass in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

BCYS Rooted 2026 – Saturday 24th October for years 7-9 / Sunday 25th October for years 10-13: A brand-new day of faith, friendship and adventure at Walsingham House for young people. With inspiring talks, workshops, outdoor activities, team challenges, prayer and Mass, it's a great opportunity to meet other young Catholics and grow in faith. For more information, and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events

Catechist Training & Resources Day – Saturday 7th November: An opportunity for First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechists, youth leaders, children's liturgy teams and anyone working with young people to come together for a day of training, inspiration, new resources and sharing ideas. The FREE event takes place at Brentwood Ursuline Convent School from 10am–3pm. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

FLAME 2027 – Saturday 6th March: Join thousands of young Catholics from across England and Wales at Wembley Arena for a huge day of inspiring speakers, live worship, prayer, Adoration and celebration. Open to young people in **Year 9 and above**, with BCYS group places available from £30. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

World Youth Day 2027 – Seoul: Join young people from around the world in Seoul, South Korea, from **1st–8th August 2027** for an unforgettable week of prayer, celebration, friendship and encountering the global Church. The BCYS pilgrimage is open to those aged **19–30** in August 2027, with applications now open. For more information, and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events

BCYS Summer Lourdes 2027 – 17th–24th July: Join BCYS for an incredible week in Lourdes, France, combining pilgrimage, prayer, service and friendship. The first wave of applications opens **1st October 2026**, so now is a great time to start thinking about joining! For more information, and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA: On *Saturday, 12th September* the Diocese of Brentwood will host the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, at the **Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood**. This will be a Day of Prayer & Devotions, with the opportunity for the veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan accompanied by Priests of the Diocese will concelebrate Holy Mass (10:30am), this will be followed by the Consecration Prayer of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Alan. As this is a Day of Prayer, we ask all those participating to bring a packed lunch, teas and coffees will be available in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Following lunch, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the Chaplet of Adoration and Reparation. Communal Recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and then a Docu-film and Talk in the Parish Hall on “Fatima Message for the World.” Finally, the Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapular will be facilitated in the Parish Hall. Please see poster for full details.

Caritas Join Caritas Brentwood this autumn for three special gatherings across the Diocese exploring Catholic Social Teaching in action. Hear from inspiring speakers, connect with other parishioners and discover how local parishes are living out our faith. Saturday 26 September: Brentwood Cathedral on Environment, Saturday 17 October: St Alban's, Elm Park on Homelessness and Saturday 14 November: St Anne Line, South Woodford on Refugees. To register, and find out more go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/caritas-brentwood-events-4458423>

The parish of St Margaret's Canning Town, wish to invite any former parishioners to the 150th Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in the grounds of St Helens School, Falcon Street, E13 entrance, on Saturday 26th September mass begins at 12 noon. Seating is limited so if you would like to sit we would advise bring a chair.

Catholic Teaching in the World of AI

Pope Leo has recently published *Magnifica Humanitas*, an encyclical letter on ‘safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence’.

The Holy Father writes: ‘In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanisation, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human.’ Fr Hugh MacKenzie, chaplain at Westminster Cathedral, is an expert on AI. He will be giving a presentation on the topic on Saturday 26th September 2026 at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park, beginning at 11 am. The event is in-person but is also available live-stream from www.whatgoodnews.org The talk will be of particular interest to our young people, with their IT competence. *Fr Adrian Graffy*