



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

please note that texts cannot be received on this number

St. Margaret of Scotland
Doddinghurst Road
Doddinghurst
CM15 0QJ



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2026



27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-43

*"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the corner stone."*

MATTHEW 21:42

Sunday Mass Responses

Response to Psalm:

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

**I chose you out of the world, says the Lord,
that you should go and bear fruit,
and that your fruit should abide.**

Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:

**The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.**

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 RCIA meeting will be on Tuesday 6th October 12.30pm as usual. We will continue exploring the Mass in further detail with the aid of a program devised by Dr Edward Sri, "A Biblical Walkthrough of The Mass". 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.

Patrick Maher celebrated his **80th birthday** on Wednesday 30th September. We will have a little celebration after Mass on **Sunday 4th October at St Margaret's**, and Pat, together with his family, would be delighted to see you there as we share in this joyful moment!

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- SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SAT 03 OCT	St M 5.30pm	David Speller RIP (Kathy Speller)
SUN 04 OCT	St H 8.45am	Tom Trew RIP (Amanda McAuliffe)
	St M 10.30am	Patrick Maher Ints. Happy 80 th Birthday (Kelly Love & Family)
MON 5 OCT	No Service	
TUE 6 OCT	St H 9.00am	David & Uni Harris Good Health & Ints.
WED 7 OCT	St H 9.00am	Our Lady of the Rosary Erol Ata RIP
THU 8 OCT	St H 9.00am	St Osyth, Rel
FRI 9 OCT*	St H 9.00am	ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Pr, D

TWENTY- EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SAT 10 OCT	St M 5.30pm	John Kaganda RIP (Agnes)
SUN 11 OCT	St H 8.45am	People of the Parish
	St M 10.30am	Christopher Benson Health Ints. (Mary & Bernard 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, 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, 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: 26/27 September 5.30pm 32; 08.45am 32; 10.30am 100; Total: 102

Offertory/Cheque Collections: £246.50

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 everyone who has contributed to St Margaret's Screen Fund. Every contribution, large or small, is greatly appreciated. Thank you

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 Helens**



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.



A Little Request About Parking

As parking at St Helen's is very limited, if you're able to park elsewhere and walk to church, we'd be very grateful. This helps leave spaces for those who need to park closer.

Thank you for your kindness and understanding.
Fr Frank

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.



CAFOD Second Collection Family Fast Day - Friday 2 October

At a time of growing uncertainty, CAFOD stands alongside communities facing some of the toughest conditions. This Family Fast Day, twelve-year-old Taya from northern Zimbabwe shares her story. Severe drought has caused food and water shortages in her community, making everyday life incredibly difficult for children and families. On Friday 2 October, CAFOD asks us to take part in Family Fast Day by skipping a meal and making a donation. Cafod Envelopes are now available at both churches and collections will take place after masses over the weekend of **3-4 of October**. Please give what you can and help CAFOD make a difference to communities facing hunger, drought and hardship.

Congratulations to our 100 Club Winner:

The Draw was made by one of our younger parishioners at St. Helen's Church last Sunday.
The lucky number drawn was

'105'

Well done to our winner, Bridget Mooney, who receives **£103**.

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

PARISH QUIZ Saturday 17th October

Could we please request some suitable donations for prizes for our raffle being held during the Parish Quiz if you could please pass to Jane or Bernie. Proceeds towards the St Margaret's Screen Fund. Thank you very much for your support.

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

'The Priests' return to the Brentwood Diocese! BCCS invite you to a weekend of musical celebration. Choose from a Gala Dinner or Charity Luncheon, both held at a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house. Enjoy fine dining and seize a rare opportunity to see world-renowned singers Fr. Eugene and Fr. Martin, formerly of 'The Priests', perform in this intimate and exclusive setting - 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 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

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

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

Walsingham House Manager Vacancy: To ensure the smooth and efficient running of Walsingham House at Abbotswick, as an inspiring, faith-filled retreat house welcoming over 5,000 young people each year. Specific responsibilities include leading retreats, and leading and training the volunteer community. The post holder also has overall responsibility for Safeguarding and (together with the Site Manager) Health and Safety. Location - Walsingham House at Abbotswick, with travel to retreat locations and BCYS events, as needed. Hours- 35 hours per week- including significant evening and weekend work Salary- £30 - 32K depending on prior experience (ideally this is a “live in” role, with a one bedroom flat provided, however it is not essential). Contract: 3-year fixed term contract. The closing date for applications is 23rd October 2026.

THE CALL TO BE HUMAN: *an introduction to Catholic morality.* Four talks to be given by Fr Martin Boland, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. For more information go to www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com All welcome.

The Campion School Open Evening for external students. Admission September 2027 on Thursday, 8th October 2026 at 4.30 pm. Talks by the Headteacher will be at 4.30pm and 6.00pm the Evening will finish at approximately 7pm

Maranatha at Upminster 15 October 2026

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! All are warmly invited to an evening of prayer, praise and worship, including Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, where we come together to encounter the Holy Spirit and share fellowship in a Catholic context. At St Joseph's Catholic Church, Upminster RM14 2SY on **Thursday 15th October 2026 7:00pm to 9:00pm**, with refreshments afterwards. Not been to Maranatha before - why not come and see? Maranatha is now held on the third Thursday of each month.

Vocations to the Priesthood The next “Enquirers’ Evening” for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 6 October at St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch. The speaker will be Fr Francis Abara. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@brcdt.org

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