

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION HAINAULT

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Registered Charity No. 234092



30th-31st December 2017

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family

Today we shift our gaze from the grotto of Bethlehem where the Saviour was born on Holy Night to the humble house of Nazareth, to contemplate *the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*, whose feast we celebrate in the festive, family atmosphere of Christmas.

The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society. The time he spent in Nazareth, the greater part of his life, continues to be shrouded in deep silence. Very little information about it has been passed on to us by the Evangelists. However, if we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus' life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen. Today's liturgy offers us a providential opportunity to do so.

For every believer, and especially for Christian families, the humble dwelling place in Nazareth is *an authentic school of the Gospel*. Here we admire, put into practice, the divine plan to make the family an *intimate community of life and love*; here we learn that every Christian family is called to be a small "*domestic church*" that must shine with the Gospel virtues. Recollection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, personal discipline and community asceticism and a spirit of sacrifice, work and solidarity are typical features that make the family of Nazareth a model for every home.

The future of humanity passes through the family which in our time has been more marked than any other institution by the profound and rapid changes in culture and society. However, the Church has never ceased "to speak and offer her help to those who are already aware of the value of marriage and the family and seek to live it faithfully, to those who are uncertain and anxious and searching for the truth, and to those who are

unjustly impeded from living freely their family lives" (*Familiaris consortio*, n. 1). She is aware of her responsibility and today too intends to continue "to offer her services to every person who wonders about the destiny of marriage and the family" (*ibid.*).

The Church relies especially on the witness and contribution of Christian families to fulfil her urgent mission. Indeed, in the face of the dangers and difficulties that beset the family institution, she invites families to have greater spiritual and apostolic boldness, knowing that the family is called to be "a sign of unity for the world" and thus to bear witness to "the Kingdom and peace of Christ, towards which the whole world is journeying" (*ibid.*, n. 48).

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless and protect all the world's families, so that within them may reign the serenity and joy, justice and peace that the new-born Christ has given as a gift to humanity.

Pope St John Paul II (Angelus 2001)

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- ❑ **THANK YOU VERY MUCH** for all your greetings, your generosity and many kindnesses at Christmas – all very much appreciated. I wish you and your families, and all our visitors, a very happy and blessed New Year!
 - ❑ **THANK YOU ALSO** to all those who cleaned, decorated the church and erected the Crib in time for Christmas, and to the choir and servers who helped in the liturgical celebration of this great festival of our Faith.
 - ❑ **THANK YOU ALSO** to *Fr Robert Page* for kindly supplying this coming week, thus enabling me to be with my father for the New Year. *Fr Jean-Claude Selvini*
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THE ANGELUS

As is now our custom, the Angelus is said at the beginning of the 6.00pm Mass on Saturdays and the 12noon Mass on Sundays. The text of the prayer can be found in the Parish Mass Books on page 2 (opposite the Table of Contents).



TEA & COFFEE

are served in the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass every Sunday. Please come along, even if only for a few minutes, to meet and chat with your fellow parishioners.

THIS MONDAY:

10.00am Mass followed by Novena Prayers
6.30pm Mass (1962 Missal)

THE LEGION OF MARY meets this Thursday at 7.00pm

ADVANCE NOTICE: the annual *White Flower Appeal* organised by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will be held at the end of all Masses over the weekend of **13th & 14th January 2018.**

HAINAULT CATHOLIC CLUB LTD:
Membership renewal now due: £8. Concessions £2.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK – open afternoon. Come any time from **12noon – 4pm on Saturday 13th January** to see the newly restored and refurbished house, and the new chapel. There will be refreshments in the dining room, tours of the house, and peaceful prayer in the chapel, with Adoration from 2.30 – 3.30pm. Everyone is warmly welcome. For more information about the project, or to donate, please visit www.bcys.net/abbotswick. The address is Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Near Brentwood CM14 5SH. It is less than 40 minutes from most of East London and Essex. Come and see!

MEDJUGORJE GROUP PILGRIMAGE: 16th – 23rd May 2018. Price includes return flights from London Gatwick, 7 nights' accommodation with half board, coach transfers and full religious programme, all airport taxes and charges - £589 (£30 reduction if booked by 15th February). Please contact Gail Hewett 020 3673 5838 or 07989 879148.

SICK AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL

If anyone is seriously ill at home or is in hospital, it is most important that a priest be informed so that the sick person may receive the spiritual help of the sacraments. Relatives or friends should inform their parish priest their parish priest and/or the Catholic chaplain of the hospital (*at King George Hospital, 8590 9026; at Queen's Hospital, 01708 477890 (Helen Miranda); at Whipps Cross Hospital, 8520 5877.*)

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

I draw your attention to the *Sick Parishioner Care* forms at the back of church. Please take one if you are going to hospital and wish the Catholic chaplain to look after you!

Fr Selvini

MASS INTENTIONS/OFFERINGS

Special envelopes are available at the back of church. If you would like a Mass offered on a *particular anniversary*, please let the Parish Priest know well in advance – the sooner the better! Thank you for your co-operation.

*Happy
New Year
-2018-*

Mass Intentions for week beginning 30th December 2017

Sat 30	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	6.00pm	Michael Scanlon RIP, Scanlon & Keville Families RIP / Bill Wakefield RIP (<i>anniv.</i>)
Sun 31		10.00am 12noon	Connie Liddard RIP (<i>anniv.</i>) The People of the Parish
Mon 1/1	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	10.00am 6.30pm	Patrick Murphy RIP <i>followed by</i> Novena Prayers Fergus Ray RIP (<i>1962 Missal</i>)
Tue 2	SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bps & Drs	10.00am	Rex & Bridget Matthews (get well)
Wed 3	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	10.00am	Les Eldred (get well)
Thur 4	Christmas Feria	10.00am	Donald Macaree RIP (<i>anniv.</i>)
Fri 5	Christmas Feria	10.00am	Mary & Denis O'Sullivan RIP
Sat 6	Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass
Sat 6	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	6.00pm	Victor Housden RIP (<i>anniv.</i>)
Sun 7		10.00am 12noon	The People of the Parish Aldo & Zelinda Poli RIP

Confessions this Saturday 5.30 – 5.45pm

Your prayers are asked for the sick and housebound, especially:

Roland Selvini, Fr Daniel Kulangara, Clare Merrins, Maciej Pogorzelski, Margaret McQueen, Paul Westrop, Bernadette Prudence, Kathleen Newell, John Liddard, Jones Bediako-Antwi-Benneh, Leslie Cook, Trevor Barnham, Ann Dunseath, Christopher Johnstone, Josie D'afers, Christina Whiting, Anne Purcell, Ken Stanton, Kathleen Simpson, Pamela Allen, Grace Lobendhan, Marcus Prospert, Eoin Oliver, Peggy Gajewski, Victor Francis, Mary Evelyn Piotrowski, Derek Pyner, Gerald Rowe, Mary Brock, Ann Divine, Ann O'Donovan, Anthony Fonseca, Maria McLoughlin, John Phillips, Mick Martin, Adriano Agatiello, Kay Fahy, Tony Baldwin, Paul Doyle, Susan Coker, Daniel Sutton, Tony Morton, Bernadette Thomas, Jane Anne Harvey, the Kitteridge Family, Maximilian Peluso, Patricia Theobalds, Jean Salter, Terry Eales, Norah Kelly, the residents of Sherrell House, Belmont Lodge and Pinewood.

Mass Attendance last weekend:

(Christmas: 599)

Offertory Collection last weekend: £626.02

(from Casa Pipino Ristorante: a donation of £100 – grazie tante!)