

Mass Intentions: 07th – 15th October 2023

Saturday	07	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	08	11.30 – In Honour of Infant Jesus of Prague
Monday	09	No Mass
Tuesday	10	Weekday in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Thanksgiving – Emmanuel Jose
Wednesday	11	Weekday in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Funeral Mass – Gerard Alain Brigitte RIP
Thursday	12	Ss Ethelburga, Hildelithe & Cuthberga 10.00 – Seamus O'Neill
Friday	13	Weekday in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Macario Vas RIP
Saturday	14	Our Lady of the Rosary 10.00 – Charles Vas intentions 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 18.00 – Thanksgiving for the Da-Cunha Family
Sunday	15	11.30 – The People of the Parish

Tuesday to Saturday, after the Holy Mass,
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary

Mass Intentions / Offerings: Special envelopes are available at the back of Church. If you would like Mass offered on a particular date or anniversary, please let the Parish Priest know well in advance – the sooner the better. Thank you for your co-operation.

Mass Attendance last weekend: 267

Offertory Collection last weekend: £714.42

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous week and I look forward, very much, to getting to know you all and working with you for the good of our Parish.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

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27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 08th October 2023

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 137-140

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

27 – All things bright and beautiful

90 – Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation

285 – Here I am, Lord

S10 – Christ be our light!

Dear brothers and sisters,

For the third Sunday in a row, Jesus offers us another parable about a vineyard. The image and symbol of the vineyard begins in the first reading today from the Prophet Isaiah. 'The Song of the Vineyard' as it is called tells the story of man who carefully dug the soil, cleared the stones and planted the best vines. He does this in the hope that it will produce the best of grapes. Sadly, it produced the sourest of grapes. When Jesus speaks to the chief priests and the elders in the gospel, he retells this story knowing well they were familiar with its origin but not its deeper meaning.

A man creates a vineyard and rents it to tenants. When the time comes, he sends his servants to collect the harvest that is rightly his. However, they beat and kill the servants. He sends even more servants and they treat them similarly. In the end he decides to send his only son believing that they will respect him, but sadly the tenants seize and kill him too. Jesus asks the elders what the owner of the vineyard should do. They reply that the vineyard should be taken from the useless tenants and given to others who will both

respect the owner and the vineyard. In reality, they themselves are the tenants who have neither respected the owner who is God, nor the vineyard, which is the Kingdom of God. It is they who have 'destroyed' the vineyard and kept all others out whom they consider unworthy; people such as sinners, the poor, the sick, the tax collectors and the prostitutes. These are the very ones for whom Jesus came with the Good News that they are loved personally and intimately by God. As Jesus says to elders very directly; 'The Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to people who will produce its fruit.'

The same Kingdom of God has been given to each of us today. It is now our responsibility to cultivate it so that it will produce fruits of which the owner, God will be proud and pleased. The danger is that like those in the gospel, we simply 'protect' it believing that it is actually ours – it isn't! It has merely been entrusted to us; we are only the stewards, not the owners. The question that Jesus puts to us this very day is what are you doing with what has been given to you on loan, the Church which exists to serve the Kingdom of God? Are we growing and producing fruits of God's Kingdom where the poor, the excluded and the marginalised are welcomed and included or have we become the new 'gatekeepers' maintaining the status quo so that it suits and benefits us? It is worth remembering that God's Kingdom has a church, not that the church has a kingdom!

Regardless of who we are or from where we come, we are all a part of the vineyard that is the Kingdom of God. Each of us is now called, invited and yes, even challenged to cooperate with others to cultivate, build and promote God's Kingdom. It is not our right; it is our responsibility. As we try our best each day to live as followers of Jesus, we do well to ask ourselves what kind of fruits we are producing. Let us remember the words of Jesus; by their fruits you shall know them.

Amen!

Refreshments after Sunday Mass

I would like to invite you to join us for refreshments after the Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall. Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee, some biscuits and a chance to meet, socialise and get to know each other.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confession is available every Saturday during Adoration and Holy Rosary and on request on weekdays during Adoration and Holy Rosary after the morning Mass.

Confirmation Programme for 2023-2024

Session will be *every Sunday at 9.30am*, starting on the *15th of October* in the Church Hall.

Death Notice

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerard Alain Brigitte who died recently. Gerard's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 11th October at 10am. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Parish Council meeting update

The Parish Council meeting was held on Tuesday 26th September. Thank you to all those that were able to attend (twenty in total) and for your valuable and active participation during the meeting. There were over twenty actions raised and parishioners will hear about some of these initiatives in the coming weeks. For example, a social committee and welcome committee has been setup, a drive for more altar servers (boys and girls), ways for our Church to benefit from gift aid and to look at how the younger generation can be encouraged to engage in Church activities. The Parish Council need your prayers, your engagement and your support to help drive the various initiatives forward.

A member of the parish council will speak after mass this weekend about the ongoing Church Renovation and how we can all help support it.

Church renovation fund

There will be a 2nd collection after each Sunday Mass, starting this weekend, to help with the renovation of our Church. Any donation would be most welcome. If you would like to make a donation to the Parish, please send an email to hainault@brcdt.org and we will be happy to supply you with the relevant account details.

World Mission Sunday – 22nd October.

The Pope's message is *Hearts on Fire, feet on the move*. Following 11am Mass on the 22nd there will be the afternoon tea in the hall. The money donated on this day will be used to support The Kibera, Kenya Africa Mission. I will be available to speak about this mission and also about the red boxes for collection in the home. Thank you in advance. (*Wendy Moroney*)

Pilgrimage to the Infant Jesus of Prague and St Jude Shrine, Faversham, Kent.

The coaches leave from the front of our church on Saturday 28th October at 9.30am and departs from Kent about 3pm after prayers, Holy Mass followed by refreshments. If interested please contact 07738333632 for further details and queries. (*Joyce Barroba*)