

Mass times and intentions: 02nd - 10th December 2023

Saturday	02	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	03	11.30 – In Honour of the Infant Jesus of Prague
Monday	04	No Mass
Tuesday	05	Weekday in Ordinary Time 10.00 – Thanksgiving
Wednesday	06	St Nicholas 10.00 – Nancy McLoughlin RIP
Thursday	07	St Ambrose 10.00 – Vic Harris RIP
Friday	08	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 10.00 – Mark & Sussana Maduka RIP
Saturday	09	Saturday of Our Lady 10.00 – Francisco Colaco RIP SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	10	11.30 – In Honour of the Infant Jesus of Prague 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: 250

Offertory Collection last weekend: £750.88

Renovation fund: £618.50

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**

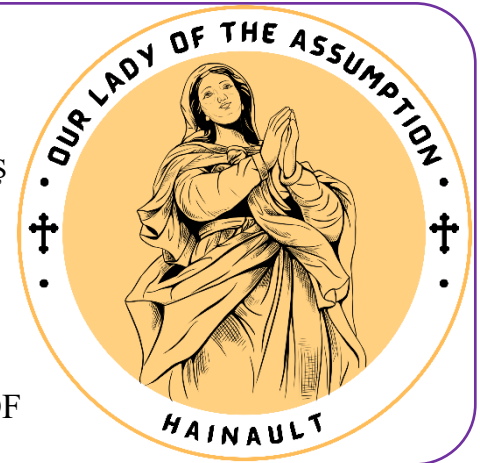
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First Sunday of Advent – 03rd December 2023

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 158-160

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

522 – O come, O come, Emmanuel

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

227 – God's spirit is in my heart

233 – Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Dear brothers and sisters,

Stay Awake, Be Prepared and Get Ready...

This Sunday we begin a new season in the liturgical calendar of the Church. Today, we begin the great Season of Advent. There are two messages that we will hear over the next weeks. One message and set of values will come to us from the media and the shops. We will be told that we will have to move faster, stay busy, queue longer in the shops and spend more money on those 'must have' presents so that we will have the 'perfect' Christmas, as if such a thing exists. We will be told and sold the idea that unless we buy more and more and surround ourselves with all the trappings of Christmas, we won't be happy. This most definitely is 'fake news.' However, there is a very different message and set of values that will be offered to us through the gospels, the prayers and the liturgy of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight path for the Lord and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is most definitely 'Good News!'

The message of Advent is an invitation and it is also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope.

Waiting is not something that we are usually good at these days. Our modern world tells us to move faster in so many ways. We have smart phones, emails and microwave ovens that all 'help' us to get through our busy days. However, Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for the Christmas. While we can't simply ignore the shops, the media and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel; 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come... what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

If we get too caught up in the shopping and spending, there is the danger that we will miss what Advent is really about. This is what the call to 'stay awake' means. We are asked not to miss the next weeks of Advent. We are asked to prepare and get ready as best we can as followers of Jesus. It would be so sad, that if after the shopping and all the other preparations we missed Advent and its joyful and hopeful message.

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.

Parish Repository

We stock a wide range of gifts, cards and devotional items. Please put your payment in the box by the gift tables. Fr. Tarciziu will be happy to sign Mass Cards and Bless devotional items. Our Christmas cards and gifts are now also available.

Death Notice

It was with sadness we learned of the death on Tuesday 28th November 2023 of Betty Hetherington. She was our Organist for over 40 years and her husband Peter, who pre-deceased her, was our Choirmaster. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Christmas Hamper

We will raffle a Christmas hamper this year to help raise money for the decoration fund. There will be a box at the back of the Church if anyone would like to donate any non-perishable food items. Raffle tickets will go on sale in December and the winning ticket chosen after mass on Sunday 17th December 2023.

Christmas Get Together

All parishioners are invited to the 2023 Christmas get together to share food and drinks after the 11:30am Mass on Sunday 17th December 2023 in the Church Hall when the winning tickets for the Christmas Hamper will be drawn.

This event is to contribute to the Church Renovation Fund. However, there will be no charge to attend the event, everyone is welcome. We will be very grateful for generous donations on the day.

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE

Sundays in Advent

Sunday, 24th December

Sunday, 24th December

Monday, 25th December

Tuesday, 26th December

Sunday, 31st December

Monday, 01st January

Tuesday, 02nd January

Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30

Forth Sunday of Advent

Please note that this Mass only fulfils your Sunday Obligation and does not fulfil your Christmas Obligation. You still need to attend Mass either tonight or tomorrow.

20.00 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

11.30 – CHRISTMAS DAY

11.30 – St Stephen & Boxing Day

Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30 – The Holy Family

11.30 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

No Holy Mass

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

Church renovation fund

There will be a 2nd collection after each Sunday Mass, to help with the renovation of our Church. Any donation would be most welcome.

You can also make a donation to the Parish by just scanning the QR Code and entering the appropriate amount.

Account Name: **Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption**

Sort Code: **40-13-22**

Account Number: **31019244**

