

Mass times and intentions: 09th - 17th December 2023

Saturday	09	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	10	11.30 – In Honour of the Infant Jesus of Prague
Monday	11	No Mass
Tuesday	12	Feria 10.00 – Mary Evelyn Piotrowski RIP
Wednesday	13	St Lucy 10.00 – Pat Still RIP
Thursday	14	St John of the Cross 10.00 – All departed members of Brisley Family 12.30 – Funeral Mass - Betty Hetherington RIP
Friday	15	Feria 10.00 – Alexander Piotrowski RIP
Saturday	16	Feria 10.00 – Wallis & Femia intentions THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	17	11.30 – Anne Lovett

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: 263

Offertory Collection last weekend: £872.66

Renovation fund: £343.89

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

PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDES
020 8500 3953

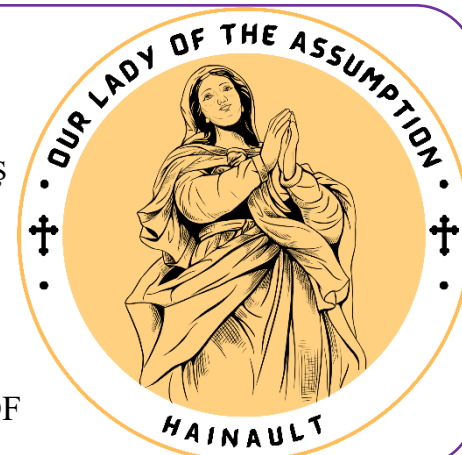
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Second Sunday of Advent – 10th December 2023

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 85-87

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

575 – On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

128 – Come, Lord Jesus, come

243 – Hark! A herald voice is calling

227 – God's spirit is in my heart

Dear brothers and sisters,

A Voice cries in the Wilderness

There is something beautiful about all the lights that we now see around us in the streets and shop windows. As they shine and sparkle, they are trying to catch our eye and get our attention.

In our gospel this Sunday, John the Baptist is trying to do the very same thing; he too is trying to get our attention because he has a message for us as we take another step on our Advent journey.

John comes as a messenger in the wilderness not just with any news, but with 'good news' for all to hear. He comes to us with a message of hope. John tells us that someone (Jesus) is coming and that he is far more powerful than John. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah describes the arrival of this person; 'Here is your God. Here is the Lord coming with power.' John reminds us today as he did in the desert that God has not forgotten us or the promise that was made to generations before us; Jesus the Messiah is coming. Jesus is coming not just into our world, but into our homes, lives and our very hearts. This most definitely is 'good news.'

John came with a new message in a new place. Normally people went to the temple or the synagogue to hear the word of God. But John is in neither of these places. He appeared and spoke in the wilderness of the desert and as the gospel tells us all *'the people of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him'*. Through John, God is proclaiming a new message in a new way. As the Prophet Isaiah reminds us, Yahweh says, *'look I am doing something new, it is already happening. Can you not see it? I will make a path in the wilderness.'*

What is this *new thing* God is doing? Through the words and actions of Jesus, God breaks into our world and lives in a new, life-giving and personal way. Our God is a God of surprises and God's ways are not our ways.

John asks us to *'prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight.'* What does that mean for us today? When the people heard John speak, *'they were baptised and confessed their sins.'* An important aspect of our Advent journey and preparation is acknowledging that there are parts of our lives that need straightening!

Perhaps one way we could prepare a way for the Lord during these weeks of Advent is to consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. As we focus our attention on so many other things during the lead up to Christmas, let us not forget to prepare a place in our hearts to welcome Jesus.

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.

Death Notice

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Betty Hetherington who died recently. She was our Organist for over 40 years and her husband Peter, who pre-deceased her, was our Choirmaster. Betty's Funeral will be on Thursday 14th December at 12.30pm followed by burial at Forest Park Cemetery at 2pm.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Christmas Concert

The Valentine Singers will be performing a feast of seasonal music with favourite carols in our Church on **Friday 15th December at 7.30pm**. Tickets £12 in advance or £14 on the door which includes seasonal refreshments (admission free for under 16s).

www.valentinesingers.org or call 07484 231429 to book your tickets.

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.

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**

Thank You

From being in the red on September 1st, our fortunes have turned around! This is thanks to your extra weekly offerings, monies you put in the 2nd collection for the renovation fund and Gift Aid refunded from the taxman. We are so very grateful to you and hope you are happy with the progress made so far.

The renovation work is being done by 5 volunteers at the end of their working day. They are friends of Fr. Tarciziu who works alongside them. May God bless them.

One reason we were in the red was because our energy bills were enormous! The church does not qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment, so if you do, and you can spare some of yours, it would be very gratefully received. Please put your offering in the 2nd collection using envelopes if you Gift Aid or in the basket.

We have some way to go, but thanks to you, we have made a great start. Thank you!



ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE

Sundays in Advent

Sunday, 24th December

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.

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

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.