

**Mass times and intentions: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - 07<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b> <b>18.00</b> – Michael & Anthony Scarlon RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>11.30</b> – Bernard & Pauline White
<b>Monday</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>MARY, MOTHER OF GOD – Solemnity</b> <b>11.30</b> – Esther Phillips intentions
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>No Holy Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Feria of Christmastide</b> <b>10.00</b> – Emmanuel Busari
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>Feria of Christmastide</b> <b>10.00</b> – Donald Macaree RIP
<b>Friday</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Feria of Christmastide</b> <b>10.00</b> – Peter Phillips intentions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Feria of Christmastide</b> <b>10.00</b> – Victor Housden RIP
		<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> <b>18.00</b> – The People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>11.30</b> – The members of our choir

Tuesday to Saturday, after the Holy Mass, **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary**. Confession is available every Saturday during Adoration and Holy Rosary and on request on weekdays during Adoration and Holy Rosary after the morning Mass.

**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: 234**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £689.45**

**Mass Attendance for Christmas: 473**

**Offertory Collection for Christmas: £2864.99**

**Renovation fund: £157.00**

**CATHOLIC PARISH  
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**

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***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023***

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. **107-109**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

**305** – In the bleak midwinter

**310** – Infant holy, infant lowly

**540** – O little town of Bethlehem

**383** – Lord Jesus Christ

***Dear brothers and sisters,***

This Sunday, we remember and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. It might be true to say that the focus of attention leading up and during the celebration of the Nativity is Jesus. This Sunday, we acknowledge the whole family!

There is often a sense of nostalgia and romance about the birth of Jesus. This can be heard in the best of our much-loved Christmas Carols and even seen in the worst of our Christmas cards! These cards show us a crisp winter night, stars in the sky and snow on the manger. That is not to say that they are not helpful, but we need to look beyond them, particularly on this great and important feast.

Mary was called personally by her name and asked to take on what would seem to be an impossible task. However, she was not expected to do what she was asked by herself or to rely on her own efforts or strength. On hearing that she was to be the mother of Jesus, *'she was deeply disturbed and wondered what the greeting could mean.'* Told not

to be afraid, she was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. She was strengthened and encouraged by God to do what was asked of her. Joseph too was called to take on a role he did not ask for. Like Mary, he too heard the message, *'do not to be afraid.'* God who called both of them would not ignore or abandon them as they became the parents of Jesus. Jesus too in his own life and ministry was guided and led by God. He said, *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, I have been called to bring the good news to the poor.'* Even Jesus does not rely on his own efforts!

On this feast of the Holy Family, it good to pray in gratefulness and thanks for our own parents and family. No one's family is perfect. All our family members, including ourselves have made mistakes and have got things wrong. We have all done and said things that we have later regretted. Regardless of this, we owe our family everything and for this we thank God.

St. Eugene, the founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate came from what today could be called a 'broken family.' His parents divorced in 1795. Eugene was just seventeen years of age. This happened at a time when divorce was rare. Eugene had a far from ideal family life. He is the Patron Saint of Broken Families. Prayers to St. Eugene can be very helpful and supportive for people who are experiencing problems in their family life. On this feast day, let us do just that; let us pray for all those we know who are experiencing the pain and difficulty of problems in their married and family life.

May the Holy Family of Nazareth bless, guide and protect all our families, now and always.

*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.

### **When does Christmas end?**

We all know that Christmas officially begins on Christmas Eve, but when does Christmas officially end? The answer is a little complicated. We often hear

people say: 'Oh, Christmas is all over in a day, after all that build up...', but is it really? On 6<sup>th</sup> January, the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church celebrates the biblical event where the Magi, also called the Three Wise Men or Three Kings, travelled from the East to pay homage to the new born King, Jesus Christ. Many believe that this is the date when the Christmas season officially ends, as it is the end of the traditional 12 days of Christmas. In some countries, many people exchange gifts with one another on 6<sup>th</sup> January, as that is the date when baby Jesus received the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh from the Wise Men.

However, according to the Catholic calendar, Ordinary Time does not officially begin until the Monday after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on the Sunday after Epiphany. This means that the Christmas season actually extends well beyond the popular 'Twelve Days of Christmas'.

As Catholics, we believe that Christmas actually continues on into February. On 2<sup>nd</sup> February we keep the feast of Candlemas, which falls 40 days after Christmas Eve. Candlemas is a celebration of when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus and presented him in the Jerusalem Temple. This is the end of what is known as 'Christmastide'. The word 'Candlemas' comes from 'Candle-mas' because Simeon had a prophecy that Jesus would come as a light of the world.

### **Epiphany of The Lord**

The Solemnity of Epiphany falls on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January, however in accord with a decree of the Bishops' Conference, the Obligation is kept on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a Holy Mass on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 18.00** and then the usual Sunday schedule on the **7<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30**. Blessed chalk and Holy Water will be available for you to take home for the traditional blessing of homes.

### **Church renovation fund**

You can make a donation to the Parish, to help with the renovation of our Church, by scanning the QR Code and entering the appropriate amount. Any donation would be most welcome.



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

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

Account Number: **31019244**

### **Medjugorje Pilgrimages: 30<sup>th</sup> April – 7<sup>th</sup> May & 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The total cost of each pilgrimage is £700 and a £30 discount will be given to those who book and pay a £100 deposit before the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

The package includes flights, luggage, transfers, half board at the hotel, plus our own guide for the week. For further information please phone Gail on 07989 879148 or email [gail.hewett@hotmail.com](mailto:gail.hewett@hotmail.com). Thank you.