

Mass times and intentions: 16th - 24th December 2023

Saturday	16	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	17	11.30 – Anne Lovett
Monday	18	No Mass
Tuesday	19	Feria 10.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
Wednesday	20	Feria 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
Thursday	21	Feria 10.00 – Sylvia Culling RIP
Friday	22	Feria 10.00 – Kathleen Tierney – Anniversary
Saturday	23	Feria 10.00 – Samuel Mohanran RIP FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	24	11.30 – Kathleen Leame RIP THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 20.00 – 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: 229

Offertory Collection last weekend: £634.24

Renovation fund: £538.20

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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Third Sunday of Advent – 17th December 2023

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 87-89

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

332 – Jesus, thou art coming, holy as thou art

730 – This is my body, broken for you

133 – Come, thou long-expected Jesus

268 – How lovely on the mountains

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah we come upon the passage that Jesus quoted when he read scripture in the Synagogue of Nazareth. The passage begins: 'The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favour from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God.'

If we cry out to God for help when we suffer a crisis or a traumatic event, how much more must people whose very way of life is a continual crisis call out to God. People who are oppressed, people who are trying to bring their children up in neighbourhoods where crime and drugs rule, people who are physically or mentally challenged, people who are suffering pain afflicted upon them by an unfaithful spouse, a dishonest business partner or a wayward adult child, people who are hungry for food that cannot be found or who need medicine for their children that they cannot afford; how many times do these people cry out to God?

So many people are hurting. So many people are searching for some sort of meaning to the madness of life. They need us to be heralds of God's presence. We are called upon to assume the role of John the Baptist, proclaiming a new way of life, a new kingdom.

Who was this John the Baptist? In the Gospel today we hear him declare that he is not Elijah, not the prophet Moses spoken about, nor is he the anointed one, the Christ. Who was this John the Baptist? The first words of today's gospel tell us everything we need to know about him. He is the one who was sent to give testimony. He was sent. He was sent to give testimony. John was the first apostle. He was the first one sent to proclaim the presence of the Christ. He was also the first Christian martyr. John was the first one to give testimony to the Truth of Christ among us. He paid with his life for his testimony to Truth.

We are called to be like John the Baptist. We are called to be apostles and witnesses. We have been entrusted with a mission from God. We have been created for a purpose. We were given God's life at baptism so we can share his life with others. We are his witnesses. We are called to make the presence of Christ a reality in our world by giving witness to his presence in our own lives.

The world that has rejected Jesus Christ needs witnesses to His Presence. The world needs new John the Baptists to point to Jesus. We are called to be these witnesses. We are called to stand up before friends, families, working companions and say, 'For me, the Life of Christ is more important than anything the world can offer.' If this reality is present in the core of our being, the Holy Spirit that is within us will convince others of the truth of our witness. We are called to wear a cross, not just around our necks but imprinted upon our very being. We are called to sacrificial lives, for we recognise the presence of Christ in our families, among our immediate society, and throughout the world. We are called to reverence God in every action of our lives because our commitment to Christ is the whole reason for our lives.

We are the new heralds of the Kingdom. We have been sent by God. We are the new apostles. We are the new witnesses. We are the new martyrs. We are the new John the Baptists. We have a responsibility to the world around us to reflect the presence of Christ. Others need to find Jesus. Others need the testimony of those who are sent by God. We, apostles and witnesses, the new Baptists, will best prepare for Christmas if we spend time determining how we can fulfil our mission of reflecting God's presence in the world.

"There was a man named John, sent by God to give testimony to the Light." People whose lives are in darkness are seeking meaning, are seeking light. May our lives lead others to rejoice in the Light of Christ.

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.

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**

Carols – 7.30pm – Sunday 24th December

Please come a little early and join the Choir singing Carols before the 8pm Mass.
Thank you.

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE

Sundays in Advent	Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30
Sunday, 24th December	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.	
Sunday, 24th December	20.00 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Monday, 25th December	11.30 – CHRISTMAS DAY
Tuesday, 26th December	11.30 – St Stephen & Boxing Day
Sunday, 31st December	Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30 – The Holy Family
Monday, 01st January	11.30 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, 02nd January	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.	

Medjugorje Pilgrimages: 30th April – 7th May & 2nd – 9th 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 2nd 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. Thank you.