

Mass times and intentions: 10th – 18th February 2024

Saturday	10	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18.00 – Telma Bolivar & Dolor Gastiada RIP
Sunday	11	11.30 – The People of the Parish
Monday	12	No Mass
Tuesday	13	Feria 10.00 – Mary McDowell
Wednesday	14	ASH WEDNESDAY 10.00 – Timothy O’Mullane RIP 20.00 – The People of the Parish
Thursday	15	Thursday after Ash Wednesday 10.00 – Cecilia Ezeh RIP
Friday	16	Friday after Ash Wednesday 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
Saturday	17	Saturday after Ash Wednesday 10.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
		FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 18.00 – D’Souza Family – Thanksgiving
Sunday	18	11.30 – The People of the Parish

- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Holy Rosary** – Wednesday & Thursday, after the Holy Mass
- **Stations of the Cross** – Tuesday, Friday & Saturday, after the Holy 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: 227

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 809.80

Renovation fund: £ 356.00

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

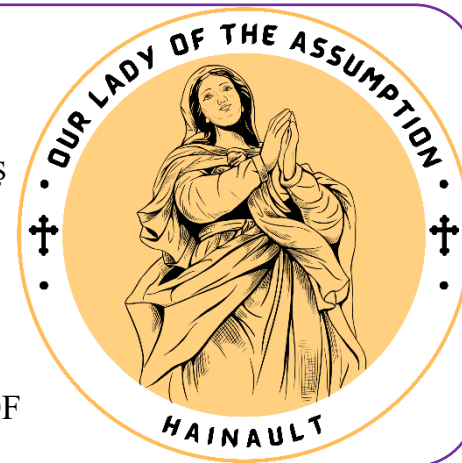
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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 11th February 2024

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 137-139

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

512 – Now thank we all our God

383 – Lord Jesus Christ

187 – From heaven You came, helpless babe

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

The first reading this Sunday from the Book of Leviticus and the Gospel from Mark, both speak to us about leprosy. For the Jewish people, before and during the time of Jesus, to be sick in any way was seen to be a sinner who was being punished by God. This was even more true and serious when a person had leprosy. Leprosy was highly contagious. If you touched a leper, it was more than likely that you would contract the disease yourself. Those who had this terrible skin disease had to leave their home, their families and their village. They could not eat or socialise with others. They were not allowed into the local synagogue or the temple to pray. They were pushed to the very edge of their community and society. They were treated with fear and suspicion. They were despised. We are told clearly at the end of the first reading, ‘*As long as the disease lasts, a person must be unclean; and therefore, they must live apart; they must live outside the camp*’. Little had changed by the time of Jesus.

A leper comes to Jesus and pleads on his knees, *'if you want to, you can heal me.'* Without hesitating, and feeling compassion for the leper, *'Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. Of course, I want to,* he said. *Be healed.'* By just being near a leper, Jesus is breaking the strict social and religious laws of his time. Then he speaks to the leper, and breaks the law again. Then he reaches out with care and tenderness to touch the leprosy; again, he breaks the law.

None of us have leprosy today. However, each of us has parts of our lives that are bruised, in pain and in need of the tender touch and healing touch of Jesus. This leper had great courage and faith. He had the humility to come before Jesus and simply say, *Lord, please heal and cure me, make me whole again.* There is a lot we can learn from this leper. Can we in any way follow his courageous example? Can we take an honest and humble look at our own lives, see where we need healing and simply ask Jesus to reach out to touch and heal us? When the people objected and asked, *'why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?'* Jesus replied, *'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.'* This is all of us: you and me.

We come to prayer and to celebrate the Eucharist as we are; flawed, failing and with plenty of faults. But we also come with hope, faith and full of courage. Just as God accepts, blesses and changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, we too will be accepted, blest and changed by God's endless love and forgiveness.

Pope Francis reminds us that *'the Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak'*. This week let us look to and learn from this leper who had the courage, faith and honest humility to simply say to Jesus, *'if you want, you can heal me'*. Can we make this our prayer this week?

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.

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. Tarcziu will be happy to sign Mass Cards and Bless devotional items.

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**

Standing Order / Gift Aid

Thank you so much for setting up a Standing Order and taking the opportunity to Gift Aid.

If you have not done so already, please collect your new gift aid boxes/envelopes from the table at the back of the Church. Thank you!

The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity.

It is a time of reflection and of asking for forgiveness, and when Christians prepare to celebrate Jesus's resurrection at the feast of Easter, which comes at the very end of Lent.

Ash Wednesday – a day of fasting and abstinence

On Ash Wednesday, churches hold special services, at which worshippers are marked with ash. This is a symbol of death and remembering bad things that we have done, and is where the day gets its name from.

Typically, the ash is made from burning special crosses made out of palm wood, which were used in church services on the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Old Palms from Palm Sunday

There will be a basket at the back of the Church for you to leave your old palms to be burnt for Ash Wednesday.