

**Mass times and intentions: 09<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 18.00 – The People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	11.30 – Osmund McMahon – Anniversary
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11</b>	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Mary Evelyn Piotrowski RIP
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Patrick O’Donohoe RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Paddy O’Keeffe RIP
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Monika & her family RIP
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent</b> 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
		<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 18.00 – The People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	11.30 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP

- **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: 240**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 972.78**

**Renovation fund: £ 401.87**

**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**

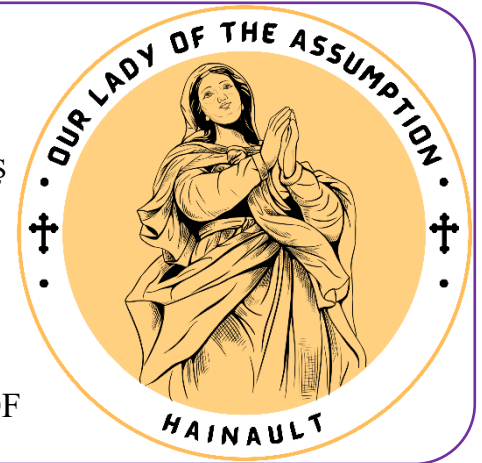
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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. 162-165

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

**215** – God is love: his the care

**676** – Take my hands and make them as your own

**101** – Bring flowers of the rarest

**209** – God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

We come to the midpoint of Lent and have this Sunday a celebration with a theme of joy and of trust in the Lord. During the whole of Lent, our hearts are set on the joy of Easter, but our feet must be firmly planted in the repentance of Lent. This Sunday, the midpoint, invites us to look at the joy just a bit more so that we can be encouraged to embrace for the rest of Lent the repentance which is so necessary in our lives.

Lent is so much about our struggle with sin! We must give our attention to the reality of sin in our lives and not ignore it. It is not as though we are terrible people—instead, most of us are fairly good people. But sin is still in our lives. We try to do the best we can, but often our struggle with sin is on the sidelines of our lives rather than a strong focus. Probably that is the way that it should be most of the time. But Lent calls us to put it in the centre for a short season of our life each year, to identify the sins that are our own and to struggle with them.

This is part of the message of the Gospel of Saint John today: Look at that which has brought sickness and be healed by the looking. But the message is twofold. In the midst of that which has brought about the sickness of sin in our lives we will also find Jesus Himself, present there to bring us healing.

These are deeply important messages for us. We cannot struggle with our sins without knowing them. And we should know that Jesus is always present to help us in the midst of our sin and in the midst of our struggle with sin: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he has for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ. This is so clearly stated in the Letter to the Ephesians. Yet we don't always believe this reality. We sometimes think that God has abandoned us. We sometimes think that if we sin again, somehow, we are no good. Instead, God invites us over and over to turn to Him. God knows that we are human and that in our struggles with sin, we will continue to fail and to fall. God is still with us and God still invites us to live in Him.

So, on this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we can rejoice because we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance. God is with us and we should not be afraid. Let us continue the struggle with sin with ever greater confidence. Let us rejoice in God's love.

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.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**


Confession is available on request every day during Adoration and Holy Rosary or after the Stations of the cross.

### **Church Renovation Fund**

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

### **Methods of Giving**

Donations can be made via standing orders, online by scanning the QR Code and entering the appropriate amount and via the offertory / 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections.

<b>Standing order details:</b>	<b>Online via QR Code:</b>
<b>Account Name:</b> Catholic Church Hainault The Assumption <b>Sort Code:</b> 40-13-22 <b>Account Number:</b> 31019244	

### **Gift Aid**

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider completing a Gift Aid Declaration form. As Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax this allows our Church to reclaim from the taxman 25 pence for each pound donated. Please speak to any member of the finance committee or email [finance-hainault@brcdt.org](mailto:finance-hainault@brcdt.org)

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

### **Mother's Day, also known as Mothering Sunday**

This special day is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday and usually falls in the second half of March or early April.

Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptised or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

### **Bishop Alan's Pastoral Visit – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

We have now been given, by the Bishop's office, the programme for his Pastoral Visit.

- **6pm** - The Bishop will arrive and spend time with Fr. Tarciziu to learn about what has been happening in the Parish since his last visit.
- **7pm** - The Bishop will celebrate Holy Mass during which he will Confirm our Confirmation Candidates. All are invited and welcome to attend this Mass.
- **After Mass** - The Bishop would like to meet you all in the Parish Hall - to congratulate the newly confirmed and to listen and talk to you.
- All are welcome.