

Mass times and intentions: 30th November – 08th December 2024

Saturday	30	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – The People of the Parish
Sunday	01	11.30 – Silveen Pritchard – good health
Monday	02	No Mass
Tuesday	03	St Francis Xavier 10.00 – Christy & Eleen Cremin RIP
Wednesday	04	Wednesday of the First Week of Advent 10.00 – Flora Cumberbatch RIP
Thursday	05	Thursday of the First Week of Advent 10.00 – Tim Megnan RIP 12.00 – Funeral Mass for Mrs. Mary Brigid French
Friday	06	St Nicholas 10.00 – In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday	07	St Ambrose 10.00 – Gertrude & Joseph Mbambo RIP
		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18.00 – Vic Harris RIP
Sunday	08	11.30 – 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: 218

Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 532.77

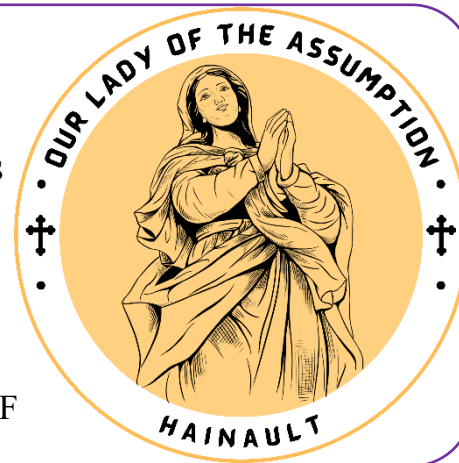
Renovation fund: £ 126.00

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**

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 01st December 2024

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. **82 – 84**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

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

243 – Hark! A herald voice is calling

332 – Jesus, thou art coming, holy as thou art (v. 1, 4, 5, 6)

4 – A new commandment I give unto you

488 – Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord

Dear brothers and sisters,

Well, it's that time of the year again; Advent. We will have already seen the many sights and sounds of Christmas around us these last few weeks. The shops are already fully decorated with Christmas trees and lights, various sizes of Santa Claus adorn every shop window and Christmas songs and carols can be heard everywhere.

All of these things are an important part of the next few weeks preparation for Christmas. But they are not the most important of these next four Sundays in December. Despite what the shops, the media and all the wonderful advertisements on television are telling us; it is not Christmas; not yet! Advent too, has its own set of sights and symbols that gently lead and point us to what we are actually preparing for: The Birth of Jesus Christ. The readings and prayers of the mass will try to get our attention as we are called to Prepare a Way for the Lord and his paths straight. We will meet and hear John the Baptist; the great messenger who comes with good news;

‘*The Messiah is coming.*’ He is a sign of hope and faith for us; he will ask us to get ready to welcome God’s Chosen One. The evergreen Advent Wreath with its candles burning brightly will help to make this journey of preparation prayerfully one week at a time. While the shops and the media will encourage us to move faster and to spend more, the prayers and symbols of Advent ask us to slow down so that we will not miss what is at the very heart of our Advent Journey: preparing our hearts, lives and homes to welcome and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

So, in our first gospel for Advent, Jesus speaks to each of us very clearly and directly when He says, ‘*Watch yourselves.... And Stay awake.*’ What do these small but important phrases really mean for us as we begin Advent? Jesus challenges us to watch ourselves so that we don’t become careless, casual or complacent about the way we live our daily lives. It can be all too easy for us to convince ourselves that it doesn’t really matter how we live our ordinary lives; it does matter.

In the letter to the Ephesians, St Paul writes; ‘*be very careful about the sort of lives you lead...*’ This is meant as an encouragement as well as a challenge. Advent, like Lent asks us to pay extra attention to how we speak to and about others. We are asked to consider prayerfully how we treat others in our homes, our schools and in our work places. This is how and where Advent takes place; in and through our ordinary daily lives. Jesus asks us to stay awake in case we miss what Advent is really about.

Behind and beneath all the wonderful preparations for Christmas that we will take part in, we are asked and called not to forget that we are preparing to welcome God becoming one of us in the very person of Jesus. If we get too caught up in all the shopping, spending and being busy, there is the chance that we will forget or even miss what Advent and Christmas are really about. So, as we prepare to clean the house, buy presents and decorate the Christmas tree, may we also prepare prayerfully for what lies ahead: we are preparing to welcome *someone*, not simply getting ready for *something*.

My God bless each of us, our homes and our families over the coming four weeks of Advent. May we do all we can to stay awake as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen!**

Walk With Me – A Journey of Prayer for Advent 2024

The *Walk With Me* booklet for Advent is now available. The cost of the booklet is £1. Please put your money in the special box above the holy water at the back of the church. Thank you.

Death Notice

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Mrs. Mary Brigid French, a devoted member of our parish community. Throughout her life, she distinguished herself through her unwavering commitment to the church. Her faith and service have been an example to us all, and she will be remembered as a pillar of our parish.

The funeral mass will be held on **Thursday, 5th December at 12.00** in our church. We invite all who wish to pay their final respects to join us in prayer. We pray that the Lord will grant her eternal rest and bring comfort to her grieving family. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Christmas flowers

As we prepare to celebrate the holy season of Christmas, we are seeking contributions to help cover the costs of the flowers that will adorn our church for this special occasion. These decorations not only enhance the beauty of our church but also symbolise our love and reverence for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your generous donations will help us create a sacred and welcoming environment for all who attend our Christmas services. Any contribution, no matter the amount, will be deeply appreciated. Donations will be collected after Masses on the 14th and 15th December. Thank you for your kindness and continued support. May God bless you and your families!

Christmas Get Together

All parishioners are invited to the Christmas get together to share food and drinks after the 11:30am Mass on **Sunday 15th December 2024** in the Church Hall. This event is to celebrate & contribute to the Church Renovation Fund. However, there will be no charge to attend the event, everyone is welcome. We would appreciate generous donations on the day. Please, if you can, bring a dish of food or drink to help with the celebration. Thank you.

Confirmation Programme for 2024/25

Application forms for Confirmation Programme for 2024/25 are now available at the back of the church. You need to have the following to be eligible for the programme:

- live within the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Hainault
- your child needs to be at least in Year 9 at school (14 years old and above)
- practising Catholic family in this parish (baptised Catholic, goes to church regularly and receive the sacrament of Communion and Reconciliation); or reference from previous parish priest if you're new to our church community.

Session will be every Saturday at 10.00am, starting on the **11th January 2025**. Please hand in your completed application form to Fr. Tarciziu no later than 5th of January 2025.