

**Mass times and intentions: 07<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 18.00 – Vic Harris RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>08</b>	11.30 – The People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	<b>09</b>	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent</b> 10.00 – Anthony & Mary Davitt Bernard & Hilda House
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent</b> 10.00 – Mary Evelyn Piotrowski RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Thursday of the Second Week of Advent</b> 10.00 – Olusanya & Busari Families
<b>Friday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>St Lucy</b> 10.00 – Jon Henry RIP
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>St John of the Cross</b> 10.00 – In Honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('Gaudete' Sunday)</b> 18.00 – The People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15</b>	11.30 – Gabriela – 18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday

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: 272**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 768.87**

**Renovation fund: £ 119.25**

**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**

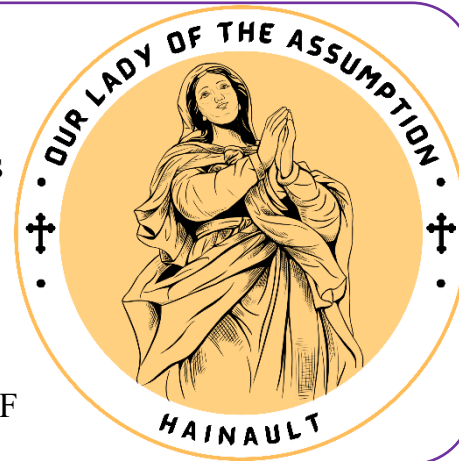
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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 08<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Parish Mass Book – Sunday Readings – pgs. **84 – 87**

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

**125** – Come down, O love divine

**S3** – Gifts of bread and wine

**133** – Come, thou long-expected Jesus

**6** – A sign is seen in heaven

**268** – How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

The Jewish People of the Old Testament had been promised that the Messiah, the Chosen One of God would come to deliver and save them from oppression and slavery. They were told through the Prophets, God's messengers, that God would always be with them. Sadly, over the generations, they had lost faith and hope in this message. They in fact, had turned away from God and forgotten that God indeed has saved them and was always guiding and leading them.

By the time of Jesus, the people had almost completely forgotten the promise, the Covenant that God had made with them. They were now being ruled and governed by the Romans and they longed for a new ruler, one of their own who would overthrow the Romans and create a new Jewish empire. God had never forgotten them; the Messiah was coming, but not the sort of Messiah they wanted. God had an altogether different plan for them.

This Sunday in the gospel we meet and hear from the great messenger and Prophet; John the Baptist. Before Jesus arrives, John is the last of the Prophets of the Old Testament. The Prophets had a very important role in the lives of God's People. They came to remind the people that God had neither abandoned or forgotten them. They came to challenge the people because of the way they were living and treating each other; often unfairly and unjustly. Lastly, they came with a message of hope for the future; God's Chosen One, the Messiah, would come eventually in God's time and in God's way, not theirs. So, John the Baptist comes to challenge and to encourage the people. He came preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

We do not normally experience Advent as penitential time, but it is, just as Lent is. Advent calls us to prepare to celebrate Christmas as best we can. Perhaps reflecting prayerfully on the quality of our daily lives is part of this preparation. This need not be difficult or painful. We are invited to return to our loving and forgiving God who will welcome and embrace us tenderly and compassionately. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation could be a very enriching and fruitful way of getting ready for Christmas.

Perhaps this is what the second part of John's message means to us during these Advent days; he calls, invites and challenges us to prepare a way for the Lord. As well as preparing for Christmas by shopping and getting our homes ready, we could also take some time to get ourselves ready at a prayer and spiritual level too. What in my own daily life needs changing and improving? Is there someone in my family or a colleague in work to whom I am being asked to say sorry and apologise?

This week as we take another step on our Advent Journey may we do whatever we can to prepare a way for the Lord, whether at home, in school or at work.

**Amen!**

### **Christmas Treasures at the Repository**

As we prepare our hearts for the joyous celebration of Christmas, don't forget to visit the church repository for a beautiful selection of seasonal items. From nativity sets and candles to Christmas cards and thoughtful gifts, there's something for everyone. Your purchases also support our parish's mission. Stop by after Mass to explore these meaningful treasures! Items can be paid for by cash in the metal box on the repository table or by card via the contactless devices (by selecting "Repository" from the menu options).

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024** in the Church Hall. This event is to celebrate and contribute to the Church Renovation Fund. There will be no charge to attend the event, everyone is welcome. 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 **11<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. Please hand in your completed application form to Fr. Tarcziu no later than 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.

## **ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE**

<b>Sundays in Advent</b>	<b>Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30</b>
<b>Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>18.00 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
<b>Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.00 – CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<b>Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.00 – St Stephen &amp; Boxing Day</b>
<b>Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30 – The Holy Family</b>
<b>Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>10.00 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>