

**Mass times and intentions: 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14</b>	<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
<b>Monday</b>	<b>16</b>	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Weekday of Advent</b> 10.00 – Anne Lovett
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Weekday of Advent</b> 10.00 – Ayomide Ishmael RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Weekday of Advent</b> 10.00 – Emmanuel Ayanru RIP
<b>Friday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Weekday of Advent</b> 10.00 – Deidre Guinane intentions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Weekday of Advent</b> 10.00 – Thanksgiving & special intentions
		<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 18.00 – The People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	11.30 – Kathleen Tierney

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: 196**

**Offertory Collection last weekend: £ 708.00**

**Renovation fund: £ 121.70**

**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**

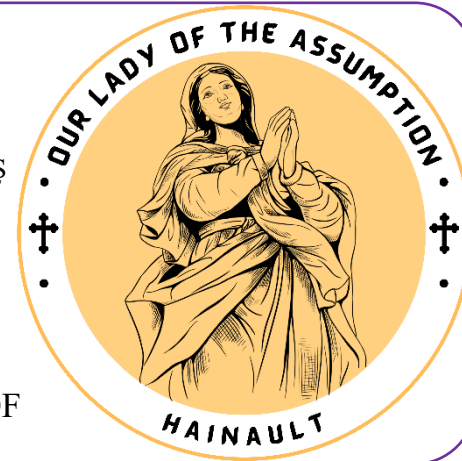
PARISH PRIEST: FR TARCIZU ERDEŞ  
020 8500 3953  
07735 416319

[hainault@brcdt.org](mailto:hainault@brcdt.org)

[finance-hainault@brcdt.org](mailto:finance-hainault@brcdt.org)

[www.hainault.org.uk](http://www.hainault.org.uk)

98, Manford Way, Hainault, IG7 4DF



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

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

Hymn Book numbers for Sunday Mass

**373** – Lo, He comes with clouds descending

**241** – Hail to the Lord's anointed! (v. 1, 2, 3)

**263** – Holy Virgin, by God's decree

**79** – Bethlehem! Of noblest cities

**227** – God's spirit is in my heart

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

It would be fair to say that we all have our own favourite image or picture of God or Jesus. In the Old Testament God is described as wind, fire, a shepherd, a mighty rock and a shield, among others. In the gospels, Jesus spoke of himself as the Bread of Life, the Light of the Word, the Water of Life and the Vine, just to name a few. These earthly images help us to talk about God and Jesus in ways that are easy for us to grasp and understand. They help us to relate to God in our own words and images. But no word, image or picture of God that we use can ever fully grasp the fullness of God's own identity.

However, in the first reading for today's mass from the Prophet Zephaniah we are given a wonderful life-giving and joyous image of God: we are told not be afraid anymore; God has overturned or done away with our sentence; the Lord, the king of Israel is in our midst and is very close to us.

Then, finally we are told God 'will exult and rejoice over you; he will renew you with his love; he will dance with shouts and joy for you as on a day of festival.' Our God is a singing and dancing God! God is not angry, fearsome, judgmental, remote, silent or distant. Our God is in our midst, with us, singing and dancing with joy over each of us. This is a very healthy and life-changing image of God that we can rejoice in and take great comfort from as we take another step on our Advent Journey.

In the gospel this Sunday, we meet John the Baptist again. Last Sunday, he asked us to repent, change our lives and prepare a way for the Lord. In this Sunday's gospel, the people ask him what they need to do to prepare for the Lord. He told them, if you have two coats, give one to a person who has none. The tax collectors who were known for stealing and cheating, were told not to take more than their legal right. The soldiers were told not to bully or beat people. Three times different groups asked what they had to do and three times John found the answer in justice, mercy and compassion; obey the law, treat each other fairly and care for those who are poor.

Perhaps this gospel holds a mirror up to each of us and presents us with the question: what do we have to do today ourselves to prepare a way for the Lord? The answers John gave the people are all about relationships and how the people treated or mistreated others.

As I move closer to celebrating Christmas, how am I treating other people around me in my family, at school or in work? Is there anything in my behaviour and in how I treat others that needs changing? Can I ask God to help me with this over the coming week?

We have nothing to fear or worry about: God will renew us with his love and God will dance with shouts of joy for us as on a day of festival!

**Amen!**

### **Supporting Our Parish Priest**

Easter and Christmas are the two times in the Church year when our offerings directly support our parish priest Fr. Tarcziu. As we celebrate this season of giving, we invite you to show your appreciation for Fr Tarcziu's faithful guidance and service throughout the year. Donations can be made on 24/25 December via the general offertory baskets, contactless payments, bank transfers or standing orders (indicating that the donation is specifically for the Christmas offertory or Fr. Tarcziu. Gift aid envelopes should be dated 25th Dec 2024). If you have signed up to Gift Aid please remember to include your gift aid number (or name & address) so that the Church can benefit from an additional 25% tax refund. The parish committee thank you for your generosity and support.

### **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**

**Sundays in Advent**

**Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30**

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**18.00 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00 – CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00 – St Stephen & Boxing Day**

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December**

**Sat 18.00, Sun 11.30 – The Holy Family**

**Wednesday, 01<sup>st</sup> January**

**10.00 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**